

المرجع	IOR/R/15/1/472
العنوان	"ملف 53/6 (D 2) شؤون الكويت ١٨٩٨-١٨٩٩"
التاريخ/ التواريخ	٢٧ ديسمبر ١٨٩٨-٠٢ أغسطس ١٨٩٩ (ميلادي)
لغة الكتابة	الإنجليزية , الفرنسية و العربية في اللاتينية بالأحرف والعربية
الحجم والشكل	مجلد واحد (٢٨٠ ورقة)
المؤسسة المالكة	المكتبة البريطانية: أوراق خاصة وسجلات من مكتب الهند
حق النشر	المُلكية العامة

حول هذا السجلّ

يحتوي هذا الملف على مراسلات بين العديد من لمسؤولين البريطانيين (ومراسلات مباشرة بين المسؤولين البريطانيين وأفراد أسرة الصباح الحاكمة بالكويت بما فيهم الشيخ مبارك الصباح) بخصوص العلاقة بين الحكومة البريطانية والكويت.

تناقش المراسلات إذا ما كان يجب أن تخضع الكويت للحماية البريطانية وعلاقة الكويت بالدولة العثمانية والقوى الأجنبية الأخرى. تحتوي الاوراق ٤٢-٤٣ على نسخة من اتفاق سري - وترجمتها (إلى الإنجليزية) - بين الشيخ مبارك والحكومة البريطانية.

وتتناول المناقشات كذلك الاعتراف بالشيخ مبارك كحاكم للكويت (قتل مبارك أخاه محمد، الحاكم السابق في سنة ١٨٩٦).

ويحتوي الملف كذلك على مراسلات مفصّلة حول مخطط اقترحه شخص روسي يُدعى كونت كابنيست, لإنشاء

خط سكة حديد بين طرابلس والكويت.



"ملف 53/6 (D 2) شؤون الكويت ١٨٩٨-١٨٩٩" [أمامي] (١/٥٥٤)

CONFIDENTIAL.

R. 15. 1. 472

R/15/1/472

KOWEIT.

D. 2.



~~Keep~~.
FO
[illegible]
15/9/53



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D. 2. R/15/1/472

53/6.

Agreement with Koweit
is on page 34.





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INDEX to file 53/6 D.2.

1898-1899.

KOWEIT AFFAIRS.





2

Consul Busreh to report direct on Koweit affairs to Resident
pxx222x and to Govt. of India if urgent - p.262.

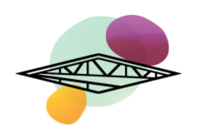




4

53/6 D2





00001 5

Telegram
From Foreign

Secretary of State for India begins. Koweit
Foreign Office would approve protectorate on the understanding that responsibilities for its assertion and maintenance and for control have devolved on the Government of India and if you think that it could be undertaken without difficulty or inconvenient extension of duties police devolving on your Government in the Gulf. I should wish to know opinion of Government of India with special reference to
(i) present state of affairs at Koweit and to
(ii) the measures you could take to make Protectorate effective



Rely on Her Majesty's Government for diplomatic support at Constantinople. Ends.

Please report and communicate copy of this telegram to the Resident in Turkish Arabia for similar report
29/12/98

Following sent by letter in cypher to Poll: Resident in Turkish Arabia Bagdad
"Following telegram from Foreign begins

x x x

ends"

Sent by mail steamer
1/1/99. (Sd.) Meade

Consul at Busreh written to
3/1/99 (Sd.) Meade



Telegram 00002 6
To Foreign India

Your telegram about Kaweit – Please refer to my letter no: 90 of 25th Sept. 1897 – stop – I consider I had better, if you approve, visit Koweit without delay & obtain the information required by Secretary of State. I strongly recommend before I go that I may be authorised, as preliminary to openly acknowledged Protectorate to enter into secret arrangement with Sheikh by which he will be bound not admit Protectorate by any Power other than Great Britain and I suggest that in return we agree to support him against all attacks



I understand Koweit is sufficiently strong to resist any attack by land from other Arabs or from present Turkish force at Busreh & we can stop force by sea with the gunboats now available.

If, however, a Protectorate is decided on, to make it effectual our Naval force in Gulf should be temporarily increased and I recommend a cruiser and a gunboat be sent direct Bushire without previous intimation to Commanders of intended duty.

I cannot communicate in cypher with Resident Turkish Arabia but will send your message in cypher by next mail



and will also ascertain
from Consul Busreh
what force available
there. As prompt
action may be necessary,
I am inclined to think
it is better not to
await reply from
Resident Turkish
Arabia which will
take some time and
may not be much use.
If we do not admit
Turkish rights at Koweit,
Resident Persian Gulf
seems best able to
deal with questions
regarding the place
(sd) Meade
30/12/98



Confidential D/O.
Bushire
3rd Jany 1899.

Dear Mr Wratislaw,

Kindly let me know as soon as you can by post any information you may have gathered about Koweit and about the strength of the Turks at Busreh. I should be very glad to receive your views.

I need not ask you to keep this letter very confidential

Yours sincerely
(Sd). M. J. Meade



8

00004

Bushire
January 1899

Dear Mr Wratislaw
Thanks for yr letter of the 30th December to wh I will reply in another letter. As you mention that Major Melville will soon visit Busreh I send the enclosed letter for him to you and beg that you will kindly forward it by the quickest route

Yours &c
Sd/ M. J. Meade





٩

00005

Telegram fr. Foreign

Koweit - Government desire to take immediate steps (with utmost secrecy possible in order to avoid suspicion ~~of~~ attaching to open protectorate) to obtain an engagement from Sheikh not to ~~the~~ cede ~~the~~, ~~to~~ lease ~~the~~, mortgage ~~the~~ or otherwise alienate ~~the~~ or give ~~the~~ for occupation ~~of~~ any portion of his territory to the Government or subjects of any other Power without obtaining the previous consent of Her Majesty's Govt. for this purpose - They are prepared to offer £ 5000/- or even more if absolutely necessary to Sheikh - Please telegraph ~~soty~~ immediately how (you

propose to effect this negociation,
and if you go to Koweit whether you
are going in Lawrence or in a
man of war, also whether present
Naval Force in Gulf is sufficient –

Foreign

Received. morning 8th Janry 99



Telegram 00006 10

To Foreign

Koweit. Your telegram I propose going myself in Lawrence ostensibly for the purpose of enquiring into the Arms traffic and can arrange trip without exciting remark as I have given out I intend going to shoot at Kais island from which I will go by night to Koweit.

I will start on hearing from you and will negociate agreement which should be made binding on present Sheikh's successors as well as on himself.

As regards terms, however, I would venture to suggest that instead of sum down, I may be authorised to arrange yearly subsidy conditional on scrupulous observance of the terms by Sheikhs of Koweit.




a limit of say £1000
a year being given me.
I also think I may
be allowed to tell
Sheikh Mobarik that
he may count on our
good offices as long
as he adheres to his
agreement, for, if
the other claimants
to the Sheikhship
overcome Mobarik,
they may not consider
themselves bound
by the agreement with
him, while, if he
has our support, he
will probably easily
hold his own.

As only secret agreement
is contemplated, it
seems at present
inadvisable to attract
attention to this part
of the Gulf and no
increase of naval force
here is necessary but
if gunboat required
Muskat, she should



So from India and a cruiser may be in readiness at Karachi or Bombay with orders to come at once, if summoned by telegram

(Sd.) Meade

8/1/99.

No: 1. To Foreign India

Dt. 7th Jany 1899.

Sir,

I have the h: to ack: the receipt of your secret telm: about Koweit wh: reached me on the 29th Dec: 1898. — To this I replied by telegram on the following day and I am now awaiting your further instructions as to the steps which should be taken —

2. I think that, if a Protectorate is decided on, the



necessary steps to carry
it out should be taken
without delay, as
otherwise we may find
ourselves forestalled
by one of the other
great Powers.
If this happens, we
will undoubtedly be
compelled to take
energetic action, which
may then be too late.
3. A Protectorate over
Koweit will be very
beneficial to our
interests in the
Persian Gulf.
Koweit possesses
many natural advantages
& may, at any time,
become a place of
great importance.—
The Turks profess to
have a suzerainty over
it but I am of opinion
that their claims have
no real foundation
& that an effective

12
00008

openly declared Protectorate on our part should outweigh any claims they may advance.

4. I am anxious to visit the place & report to the Govt. of India if there will be much difficulty in asserting & maintaining our protection. The Sheikh informed Mr Gaskin, my assistant, who went to Koweit in September 1897 that he has a large number of followers and can repulse any attack by land. I will, in the first place, enquire carefully into the correctness of this statement & also into the present state of



affairs at Koweit.
I will also further, for the information of the Govt of India, ascertain what measures will be necessary to make a Protectorate effective.
The Gunboats which the Govt of India have already in the Gulf are ample to prevent any attack being made by sea by any naval force which is likely to be brought against the place, but I am not quite sure if they would suffice to secure it against a land attack & it is on this point that I would like to satisfy myself before I submit the report you ask for.

5. In any case, it will, I consider, be desirable to strengthen, as a temporary measure,



00009 13

our Naval Force in the Gulf, if a Protectorate is decided on, & I have, therefore, in my telegram of the 30th ultimo, recommended that a cruiser & a gunboat should be sent to Bushire, where instructions will await the Commanders.

6. I intend going to Koweit in such a way that my visit may excite as little remark as possible but, as it will probably be impossible to keep my movements quite secret, it is, I think, desirable that I should be authorised to assure the Sheikh of our protection, if he binds himself not to admit a protectorate by any other Power. Unless I can do this,



the fact of my going to
Koweit may do harm,
as it may precipitate
some action in regard
to the place on the
part of the Turks or
of some other power.
7. I have sent on
your telegram in cypher
to the Resident, Turkish
Arabia by mail, as I
cannot communicate
with him in cypher
by the Turkish telegraph
lines & also asked the
Consul at Busreh to
let me know of any
movements there may
be among the Turkish
forces at that place.
Any information I
receive will be telegraphed
to you & I wd venture
to recommend that
a report from Major
Melville, the officiating
Resident, should not
be waited for to decide



if a Protectorate is
to be undertaken.
I trust that matters
concerning Koweit
may be conducted
entirely through the
Resident in the
Persian Gulf within
whose political charge
it is situated, if, as
will be necessary, we
refuse to admit the
claims of the Turks
to it & regard it as
a portion of the Arabian
Peninsula on the
shores of the Persian
Gulf

(Sd.) Meade
7/1/99.



Telegram
To Foreign

Koweit. Consul Busreh informs me Turkish Corvette proceeds shortly to Gulf and that it is rumoured garrison at Busreh will be largely increased before long. Meade.

Sent 10/1/99.



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Recd 9.1.99

THE CONSULATE,
BUSSORAH.

Jan. 5. 99

My dear Colonel,

There is nothing particular to give you in the way of Bussorah news. Our Turkish guardship, the Zouhaf, is shortly going to Katr, to prevent the importation of arms so her able and intelligent Commander tells me. Inshallah, she will be able to get



sufficient coal on tick to take her there, and nothing will go wrong with the engines on the way.

It is rumoured that the garrison of this place is to be considerably increased before long, but I have heard nothing definite as yet. Mohsin Pasha, the Lieut.-General here, is a good chap and friendly



...on tick to take
...there will go
...ngines on the
...
...s that the
...place is to be
...creased before
...heard nothing
...t. Mohsin
...r.-General here,
...p and friendly

16

withal, so I hope to have early
news on the subject.

Strictly between ourselves, I
find Mowbray rather troublesome.
The day before yesterday, having
fixed the morning for the
return visit of the Captain of
the guardship, he went off
shooting instead, and asked
me to make an excuse for
him. The result was a muddle,
and I have had to make profuse





00011 17

apologies for him

Yrs sincly

Wratislaw



D.T.
From Fao
14th To
Resident

Turkish corvette
"Seyed Dariah"
left for Guttar
and Arab coast
noon

Rec^d. 15/1/99.



18

00012

Bussorah - Jan 13. 1899

Dear Colonel Meade,

I know very little about Koweit as yet, only that the Kab people have sworn vengeance on Mubarek and are endeavouring to get allies from other parts to help them against him e.g. from Shamar. The Turks have, or think they have, persuaded them to keep quiet for the present, as this reference has been made to Constantinople.

With regard to our relations with Koweit. Were we to declare a protectorate over the place, I think the Turks would appeal to the other Powers who signed the Treaties of Paris & Berlin to stop what they would call



[illegible] - Jan 13.1899

the spoliation of their territory. It is true that we have never recognised their rights over Koweit, but they assert them all the same and Europe would not allow us to decide the question all alone. Pending the Diplomatic decision of the point, Turkey would mass troops there and would very likely attack Mubarak by land. Could we protect him effectively? I think not, as Koweit is quite open from the land side. Of course we could attack other parts of the Turkish Empire and if left alone would soon reduce the Sultan to reason. But should we be left alone?



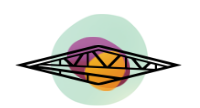
19

00013

Quite true

I certainly think it would be very rash on our part to take any step without well weighing the probabilities of our being obliged to climb down ignominiously afterwards. The British public would not like the idea of a European war in order to acquire a protectorate over Koweit, though it might see the necessity of fighting in order to prevent others getting a foothold in the Gulf. The Turks would be bound to resist a step which would mean a deadly blow to their influence in Arabia.

As for troops, we have still the 4 battalions and a battery of British)



wrote to you previously. It is reported that our
Garrison is to be very largely increased but
the General here absolutely denies this.

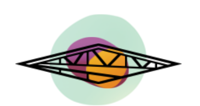
I have not found time to write to you
properly, being so busy with the Court
here. I have settled all my business
with Zelvill in the most friendly fashion.
I will write again next mail. Excuse
this scrawl.

In very great haste,

Yr Sincerely

[illegible]

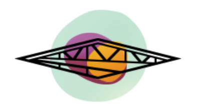
See overleaf



20

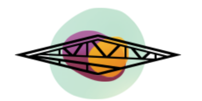
state to you previously. It
is reported that our garrison
is to be very large
increased
have also
I have
to
...

reported that our
increased but
...
...
will ...
the Coast
...
... my business
...
... fashion.
...
... House
...
... know



[wr]ote to you previously. It
[is r]eported that our garrison
[i]s to be very largely
increased, but the General
[t]here absolutely denies this.
I have not found time
to write to you properly,
being so busy with the
[C]omet" here. I have
settled all my business
with Melvill in the most
friendly fashion. I will
write again next mail
to you.
Yrs
[signature]

To
Major Melville
Offg Resident T.A.
Bagdad.



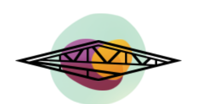
wrote to you previously. It
is reported that our garrison
is to be very largely
increased, but the General
here absolutely denies this.
I have not found time
to write to you properly,
being so busy with the
"Comet" here. I have
settled all my business
with Melvill in the most
friendly fashion. I will
write again next mail

Confl   Bushire /.21
18/1/99.

Dear Major Melville
I send you a cypher of
the Govt. of India by post
through the Consul at
Busrah, & hope it reached
you safely.
Please let me know. I wd
also be very glad to get
yr views about the
practibility of a British
Protectorate over Koweit, &c

wrote to you previously. It
is reported that our garrison
is to be very largely
increased, but the General
here absolutely denies this.
I have not found time
to write to you properly,
being so busy with the
"Comet" here. I have
settled all my business
with Melvill in the most
friendly fashion. I will
write again next mail.
Yours sincly
(sd) A. C. Wratislaw

[...] for
Busreh, & hope it reached
you safely.
Please let me know. I'd
also be very glad to get
yr views about the
practicability of a British
Protectorate over Koweit, &c



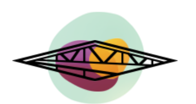
00014 24

14 22

Confidential

Bushire
18th Jany/99

Dear Mr. Wratislaw
I am much obliged to you for your interesting letter of the 13th. I suppose you delivered the cover I sent through you to Major Melville - I ask as you do not refer to it directly, though I gather fr. your letter that Major Melville told you wh the views of Govt are - Please let me know



as soon as you can of any movements of Turkish troops. Ascertain if you can do so without exciting attention what the route fr. Busreh to Koweit by land is like, if there are supplies & water for any considerable force, & if guns can be taken. What force is there at Bagdad? I suppose they could be brought



any
h
you
citing
rite
land
plies
rable
taken
Bagdad?
brought

down the river in a few days
in plate? Are there supplies
in Busreh to move a large
force in a few days notice?
Have you any reason to
anticipate that the subjects
of any power (or any other
Power itself) are endeavouring
to get a hold on Koweit by
Taking lease, or by any
other means - Please
always put any confiden



letters you write to me
in double covers. It will
be safer.

Excuse a hurried
letter as the mail is in
sooner than I expected

Yours sincerely
(sd). M. J. Meade



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Telegram to Foreign

Koweit. As it is rumoured nephews may at any time attack Mobarik assisted by Sheikhs Arab Coast, & probably by Turks, perhaps, when I go should first ascertain state of affairs, & report Mobariks actual position before we enter into negociations with him - This may perhaps be left to my discretion -

Eventually Turks must hear something and will resent whatever we do - we must be prepared for this. Meade

17/1/99





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00017

From Foreign

You s^d now proceed to Koweit and unless you are satisfied that Mobarik is in imminent danger of attack supported by the Turks or is in precarious position you should enter into secret agreement with him, on model of agreement with Muskat of 20th March 1891, ~~But~~ but in the more precise terms ~~granting~~ of my telegram of the 8th of Janry, binding the Sheikh & his heirs and successors – You can also assure him of our good offices as long as he adheres to the agreement. We rather prefer a lump payment to an annual subsidy: but we leave it to your discretion. Sum hitherto proposed in either case seems to us excessive as Sheikh



will probably jump at agreement. If you promise annual subsidy, ~~if~~ 3000 Rupees wd perhaps ~~be~~ suffice, but you must exercise your judgment in the matter.

19/1/99

Foreign



Confidential

Bushire 00018 27
19-1-99

My dear Sir William Cunningham

I have just received yr. telegram about Koweit, & have arranged to go there tomorrow -
I thought it best to let you know that the nephews, aided by the El Katr Sheikhs, may ere long make a descent on the place, &, unless we are prepared to aid Mobarik, we may find that we have backed the wrong horse.
I wish to satisfy myself as to the state of affairs at Koweit.
Mobarik told Gaskin in Sept. 97 that he could put 25000 fighting men in the field !!! I doubt if this is true, & wd like to know for certain what he he can do to defend himself if attacked - I think we are doing quite right to secure Koweit. If we don't the Turks may make over whatever



rights they profess to have to some one else, & that will be a serious matter for us. But I am fully alive to the fact that however careful I may be (& you may be sure that the utmost secrecy has been & will be observed) some inkling may get out of our negotiations with Mobarik - In that case the Turks may determine to really support the nephews, & we will have to support him unless we are prepared to let any money we give him be wasted - & our own prestige lowered - It was on this account that I suggested a yearly subsidy instead of a lump sum down. As the former w^d be equally acceptable to the other side if they turn out Mobarik, while money given him will go with him if he is defeated - However as the Gov^t



wd prefer to pay a sum down I will do my best to arrange for that, & if we also promise him our good offices I think he will no doubt give us the agreement for much less than £5000/-

The other point for consideration seems to be whether we can & will protect him if the Turks attack him -

Koweit is about 80 miles fr Busreh, & is on the south side of the Bay - we can of course easily prevent any attack by sea: but I am not sure if our gun boats can defend the Town on the land side, if the Turks send a force fr Busreh - they have not many troops* at Busreh at present (1 Battery & 4 regiments of infantry) but can easily add to their number fr by bringing more fr Bagdad, & will probably mass a force there, as a threat to Koweit if they think we have

* 1 Battery & 4 regts of inf.



designs on the place. We can no doubt easily bring the Turks to reason if left to ourselves. But the question is if the other Powers will allow us to do so, & pending the diplomatic action, wh: will have to be taken can we prevent the Turks fr. effectually aiding M's enemies, & turning him out. This may require a Force being sent fr. India, & it is to this eventuality that I referred in my last telegram. I think M. can probably hold his own against any attack by other Arabs, & I hope to be able to conclude the agreement with him on favorable terms. But after that we may have difficulties, & may have to increase our strength in the P. G. I will send you a report as soon as the agreement is concluded. I have not yet heard what has made Govt. think that the time has come for taking these steps



000029

but I may mention that about
a month ago the Head Maaledin of an
Armenian (British Protected) firm
here called & asked me if I wd
advise him to try & purchase land
at Koweit. I told him that I
Cd give no advice on the subject, but
it is clear that there is a growing
idea of the importance of the
place, & we will do well to secure
it as soon as we can -
I recommended that the management
of Koweit Political affairs
shd be left with the Resident
here because it is in the P.G.
& so close to Bushire - The
Turks will not take our Cypher
Tels on their Lines, & it takes
some time to communicate with
the Resident at Bagdad - I don't



think either that Major Melville
can have learnt much about
it in the short time that he
has been at Bagdad. Col Loch
has written home & I
hope to see him on his way up
in March. His views are the
same as mine.
There is one other matter to w[hich]
I ought to draw y[ou]r attention
& that is that there may
be some difficulty about lands
& Gardens, wh[ich] Sheikh Mubarik holds
in the Busreh Dist. The Turks may,
& probably will, seize them,
if he comes under our protection.
& we will have to consider
the question of compensation.
The matter is not one of much



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importance just now; but will
come up later on -

[illegible]

W.M. Meade

19/1/99

Telegram

To Minister

Private. I am going tomorrow
to Koweit under orders of
Indian Govt. & shall
afterwards visit
Mohammerah. Please
keep all important questions
till I return in a week.
19/1/99 Meade.

Telegram To Foreign
I am going Koweit today.
Please send copy Arabic
version of agreement made
by Sultan of Muskat
in 91. None here or at



Muskat where it may
be useful.
20/1/99. Meade



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00022

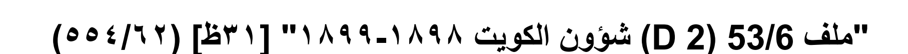
Communication
to the brother of Sheikh Mobarik
on the 22nd Jany 99.

—— . ——

The great Govt. of Gt. Britain have heard through me of the Sheikh's wish to receive the advantages of British protection such as are enjoyed by various Arab sultans & sheikhs, & the great Govt. have authorised me to enter into certain agreements with Sh: Mobarak.

In view of the relations between the Ottoman Govt. (with whom the British Govt. is on friendly terms) & the Sheikhs of Koweit, it is not considered desirable just now to openly declare that the British will take Koweit under their protection but the great Govt. does not wish that Turkish influence should be extended further in Koweit or that any other Power (than Great Britain) should obtain the protection of the place, or become possessed of land &c: there.





The Great Govt. is therefore ready to enter into a secret engagement with Sheikh Mobarak by which he should at once bind himself not to have any relations with Powers or to receive the Agents of any Power other than Great Britain at Koweit. He should agree not to cede, lease, mortgage, or otherwise alienate or give for occupation any portion of his territory to the Govt. or subjects of any other Power without obtaining the previous consent of H. M.'s Govt.

This agreement will have to be made binding not only on Sheikh Mobarak himself but also on his heirs & successors & H. M.'s Government is in return prepared to assist the Sheikh with money & to give him their good offices, should he require help.

———·———

N. B. Pencil note in Meade's handwriting

JK.



00023 32

Translation of Arabic

"Bissim Illah Ta'alah Shanaho"
Praise be to God alone. lit. In the name of God almighty

The object of writing this lawful and honourable Bond is that it is hereby covenanted and agreed between Lt Colonel Malcolm John Meade C.I.E. Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident on behalf of the British Government on the one part, and Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Sabah Sheikh of Koweit on the other part that the said Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Sabah of his own free will and desire does hereby pledge and bind himself his heirs and successors for ever not to receive the Agent or representative of any power or Government at Koweit, or at any other place within the limits of his territory without the previous sanction of the British Govt, and he further binds himself, his heirs & successors not to cede, sell, lease, mortgage, or give for occupation or for any other purpose any portion of his territory to the Government or subjects of any other Power without the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government for these purposes. This engagement also to extend to any portion of the territory of the said Sheikh Mubarik wh may now be



in the possession of the subjects of any other Government.

In token of the conclusion of this lawful and honourable Bond Lt. Colonel Malcolm John Meade I.S.C. Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Subah, the former on behalf of the British Govt. and the latter on behalf of himself, his heirs, & successors do each in the presence of witnesses affix their signatures on this the tenth day of Ramazan 1316 corresponding with the twenty third day of January 1899.

Signed. M. J. Meade Lt. Col.

Signed & sealed Mubarik bin Subah

} witness }



33

00024

Secret

Translation of Arabic letter
from Lt. Col: M. J. Meade
Poll: Resdt Pers: Gulf.
to
Sheikh Mobarak bin Subah.

A.C.

In view of the signing to day of the agreement so happily concluded between you, Sheikh Mobarak bin Subah on behalf of yourself, your heirs & your successors, on the one part & myself on behalf of H. B. M.'s Govt. on the other part, I now assure you as Sheikh of Koweit of the good offices of the British Govt. towards you & your heirs, as long as you, your heirs & successors scrupulously and faithfully observe the conditions of the said Bond.

The three copies of the Bond will be sent to India to be ratified by H. E. Lord Curzon of Kedleston, H. I. M.'s Viceroy & G. G. in Council &, on their return one copy duly ratified will be conveyed to you, when I will take measures to send you as agreed a sum of



Rs 15 000 from the Bushire Treasury. A most important condition of the execution of this agreement is that it is to be kept absolutely secret, & not divulged or made public in any way without the previous consent of the British Govt

28/1/99. (Sd) W. M. Meade.

To Foreign
No 10 Dt. 30/1/99.

Sir,

In continuation of recent secret telegraphic correspondence about Koweit, I h: the h: to submit a report on the present position of affairs there for the infmn & orders of the G: of I:.

2. On the receipt of your secret telm. dt. 19/1/99, I arranged to leave Bushire in the R. I. M. S. Lawrence, &, after visiting Kharaj island on the 20th, I arrived at Koweit on the morning of the 21st. I found a Turkish corvette, the "Zohaf" in the harbour; but decided not to alter my own plans on that account, & sent Lt. Commdr. Kendall of the Lawrence with Mr Gaskin, Extra Asst. Resdt. who knows Arabic, to call on Sheikh



Mobarak bin Subah & tell him that I had come & would like to make his acquaintance.

3. The Sheikh expressed his pleasure at my arrival; but begged me to excuse his coming off to call, as, if he did, he w.d afterwards be obliged to visit Turkish men-of-war, wh: w.d expose him to considerable risk.

I was prepared for this & told Mr Gaskin to inform the Sheikh that I would not press him to come on board the "Lawrence" but hoped he w.d send a confidential representative from himself to see me, as I had certain communications to make.

4. Accordingly, on the follow.g morning, one of the Sheikh's brothers who have sided with him, Hamad Bin Subah, came off & had a private interview with me, during which I informed him that




Sheikh Mobarak's request to be brought within the sphere of British influence had come to the notice of H. M.'s Govt, who were prepared to have a secret understanding with him on certain conditions. The terms of the proposed agreement were then carefully explained to Sheikh Hamad, who said that his brother would be glad to comply with the wishes of Govt.; but, at the same time, he referred to the fact that the family own considerable property in Turkish territory & expressed a hope that the British Govt. would promise to help them in regard to those estates which they may lose, if they offended the Turks.
I told him that I was not authorised to guarantee any particular possessions



and w^d have to refer his request for orders. He then begged me to try & see Shaikh Mobarak himself & discuss the question direct with him. Sheikh Hamad said he would inform his brother what the British Govt. required & he then returned to Kowait.

Mr Gaskin soon afterwards followed & had another interview with Mobarak.

5. I should have mention that enquiries I had made, immediately on my arrival, led me to think that there is no reason for anticipating an immediate attack being made on Sh: Mobarak, whose position was further described as more assured than it had previously been. I considered therefore that I ought to endeavour to carry out the instructions I had received & conclude the agreement with him as soon as I could.

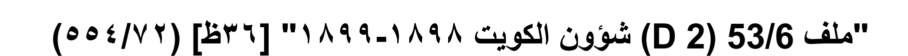


2

received, & conclude the agreement with him as soon as I could.–

6. The Turkish Corvette left Koweit for Fao on the afternoon of the 22th & as Mr. Gaskin on his return reported that Sheikh Mubarik was anxious to see me, I decided to ~~visit him~~ land the following morning.

7. Mr. Gaskin reported, that although Mubarik was anxious to enter into an agreement with the British Govt, he wd not do so unless I gave him a written assurance that he wd receive our support afterwards, & he also informed me that the Sheikh wd probably be glad to receive Rs. 15.000/ equivalent to about £1000/- in return for an engagement not to sell, cede, lease or any portion of his territory – I had directed Mr. Gaskin to sound the Sheikh

on this point.—

8. I met Sheikh Mubarik on the 23rd Jany and showed him the agreement wh I had previously prepared—the 3 copies of wh duly signed by the Sheikh and myself accompany this letter to be ratified if approved by H.E. The Viceroy & Govr Genl of India, and it will be seen that, in addition to the clauses providing against cession, sale, lease, mortgage, &c of his territory, the Sheikh has bound himself not to receive representatives from other Powers.

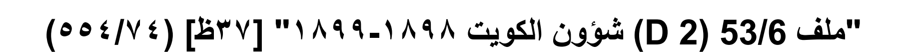
- This condition appeared to me very desirable ~~necessary~~, as Mubarik had told Mr Gaskin that he had received overtures fr the French, & I trust that it will be approved by the Govt of India.



37

00028

9. At our interview Sheikh Mubarak, while expressing his great satisfaction at the prospect of an ~~agreement~~ understanding between himself & the British, for whom he declared that he had the utmost regard, said that before he signed an agreement wh. might get him into trouble with the Turkish Authorities, I ought to give him in writing a declaration of the intentions of the British Govt. towards himself. ~~He said that he wished that~~ He asked for a definite promise of protection & assistance, especially in regard to the property belonging to his family, situated in Turkish Territory. & declared that this assurance sd. form part of the document wh. he was ~~about~~ asked

to sign. I informed him that the draft agreement I had prepared was similar to those executed ~~with~~ by other Chiefs, & that I was not empowered to enter on it stipulations binding the British Govt.

Subsequently, in view of the importance of the early conclusion of the negociation with the Sheikh, I agreed to give him a letter, a translation of which accompanies, & I told him that my instructions did not admit of my promising anything more than is in it.—

As he still pressed for a guarantee being given that the British Govt. wd. guard the family property in Turkish territory, I informed him I ~~wd. have to~~ must leave Koweit, and ask for fresh instructions, if he



 38

3/

did not see his way to sign
the agreement as it stood, &
accept the general assurance of
our good offices contained in
my letter -

10 The Sheikh then without
further discussion decided to sign
the agreement, & did so. - I followed
his example & my signature was
duly attested by Captn Hore I.M.S
Residency Surgeon, & Mr Gaskin
who had accompanied me. —
After he had signed the Sheikh
said he wd like to call in his
brother Sheikh Hamad, show him
the agreement, & get him to attest
his signature. - He evidently
expected that his brother wd do
this without raising any
difficulties; but when the agreement



& my letter had been read over,
& explained, Sheikh Hamud refused to sign
the former document, & declared
that it was necessary that the
British Govt. sd engage to protect
the family in their Turkish
property, before he wd be a party
to an engagement wh might
bring them into conflict with the
Turks.- A discussion, wh lasted
the rest of the day failed to alter
this resolve, & the Sheik's other
brother Sheikh Jabir bin Subah took the same line, &
refused to put his name on the
agreement.= 11. It was not
possible to carry out such an
important ~~transaction~~ negotiation without
the knowledge of the Sheik's brothers,
who had known all along of his



overtures to us, &, as they are co-sharers in the family property, it was desirable to have their consent. As this, however, c^d. not be obtained, Sheikh Mobarak's signature was eventually attested by Agha Muh^d. Rahim, our agent at Bahrein, who is his personal friend & whom I had taken with me to facilitate the negociation with him.

12. The agreement concluded with Sheikh Mobarak should be binding on him & future Sheikhs of Koweit & he assured me that the concurrence of his brothers is not necessary to make it so. It should facilitate the declaration of an open Protectorate later on, if H. M's Govt. decide to declare it, for it is, as far as I can ascertain, the first & only engagement ever executed between a Sheikh of Koweit & the Govt. of any country. It ought, therefore, to stand in the way of attempts by other Powers or their subjects




to gain a foothold in this important place.

13. While, however, a decided advantage has been obtained by the conclusion of the agreement, it must be borne in mind that the fact that the Koweit family possess considerable estates in Turkish territory, complicates relations with them. — The Sheikh's brothers stated that, acc.g to Turkish law, aliens cannot hold landed property in Turkey & they fear that, if they pass under the protection of the British Govt., the Turks will put this law in operation & deprive them of their estates, which form their chief source of revenue. They hesitate, therefore to commit themselves to a course, which may result in serious loss to themselves, unless they are assured of protection in regard to those estates. I told them that the family wd. receive our good offices & that I myself thought these good offices wd.



extend to all property belonging to its members, but that I c^d. not give any specific assurance as to the course wh: could be taken in regard to immoveable property situated within the jurisdiction of another State.

14. Sh: Mobarak, himself, appeared to understand this, & to realize the advantage wh: will result to the Arab rulers of Koweit from having an understanding with the British Govt. – As long therefore as the agreement is kept secret, no difficulty is likely to arise; but the Turkish authorities are no doubt already aware of my visit to Koweit &, their suspicions being aroused, they may decide to support the other claimants to the Sheikhship & try to dispossess Mobarak of his property near Fao. – I am informed that he has made alliances with various tribes in the interior of Arabia & he considers himself




quite secure as regards his position in the town of Koweit, which can, moreover, be defended by gunboat from the Harbour. There is not, therefore, much danger of an effective attack being made on the place itself.

I will however require instructions as to the course to be taken if the Turks confiscate the date gardens &c in the Busreh district.

15. These estates were formerly a part of Koweit itself, & have gradually been absorbed by the Turks whose activity in these parts has greatly increased of late years.— If we assume a Protectorate over Koweit, H. M's Govt. may be able to arrange that the Sheikh's rights in these Properties are guaranteed to him.

If this is not feasible, some other course of diplomatic action will be necessary to ensure that the family are not deprived of their revenues.

16. In view of this, I think I might be authorised to tell Sh: Mobarak & his



5

brothers, that their interests in regard to these Turkish Estates will be looked after, & receive the consideration of Her Majesty's Govt. — It seems to me desirable that we sd do this, as it will effectually prevent his brothers fr turning against Sheikh Mubarik, or perhaps divulging the secret agreement he has entered into —.
I do not think they are likely to do so, at any rate at present, but it will be as well to guard against the possibility, & ensure their silence. —

17. I have not been able to ascertain the exact value of the ~~date~~ property held by the Kowit family ~~along~~ on the



Turkish side of the Shat-al-Arab but I hear that it brings them in about £6000 a year. Revenue is chiefly collected ~~in kind~~ during the date harvest until w. ~~time~~ ~~it is until~~ it is improbable that any interference will be attempted.

[signature]



 42

Overleaf.
Copy of Secret agreement
with the Sheikh of Koweit
d/. 23rd Jany 1899.
Translation on page

JM.



43

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

المقصود من تحرير هذا الصك الحقانية المعتبرة انه قد تحقق العهد والقبول بين كرنل ملكم
جان ميد الدين ستاف كاد باليوز جلالة ملكة البريطانية العظمى من جانب
الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليز في طرف وجناب الشيخ مبارك بن صباح شيخ الكويت
في الطرف الثاني بان جناب الشيخ مبارك بن صباح المذكور برضا واختياره
يعطي العهد ويقيد نفسه وورثته وخلائفه الى الابد بان لا يقبل وكيلا
او قائم مقام من جانب دولة او حكومة في الكويت او في قطعة اخرى
من حدوده بغير رخصة الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليز ولا يفوض ولا
يبيع ولا يوجر ولا يرهن ولا ينقل بنوع اخر ولا يعطي للسكون قطعة
من اراضيه الى دولة او رعية احد من الدول الاخر بغير ان يحصل
الاجازة اولا من الدولة جلالة ملكة البريطانية العظمى لاجل هذه الاغراض
وهذه المقاولة ايضا تشتمل على كل قطعة في اراضي الشيخ المذكور التي تكون
حالا في تصرف رعايا كل واحد من الدول الغير ولاجل الشهادة لتكميل
هذه المقاولة الحقانية المعتبرة المحترمة كرنل ملكم جان ميد الدين ستاف
كاد باليوز جلالة ملكة البريطانية العظمى في خليج فارس وجناب الشيخ مبارك
بن صباح الاول منهما من جانب الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليز والثاني منهما
من جانب نفسه وورثته وخلائفه كل واحد منهما بحضر الشهود وضعوا
صحهم في هذا اليوم العاشر من شهر رمضان المبارك سنة ١٣١٦ مطابق ٢٣
جنوري سنة ١٨٩٩

Copy of Secret Agreement with the Sheikh of Koweit dated 23rd Jany 1899. Translation on following page.



43

00034

Translation of Arabic.

"Bissim Illah Ta'alah Shanaho."
Praise be to God alone (lit. In the Name of God almighty).

The object of writing this lawful and honourable Bond is that it is hereby covenanted and agreed between Lt Colonel Malcolm John Meade I.S.C., Her Britannic Majesty's Political Resident on behalf of the British Government on the one part, and Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Sabah Sheikh of Koweit on the other part, that the said Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Sabah of his own free will and desire does hereby pledge and bind himself, his heirs and successors not to receive the Agent or representative of any power or Government at Koweit, or at any other place within the limits of his territory, without the previous sanction of the British Government; and he further binds himself, his heirs and successors not to cede, sell, lease, mortgage, or give for occupation or for any other purpose any portion of his territory to the Government or subjects of any other Power, without the previous consent of Her Majesty's Government for these purposes. This engagement also to extend to any portion of the territory of the said Sheikh Mubarik, which may now be in the possession of the subject of any other Government.

In token of the conclusion of this lawful and honourable Bond, Lt Colonel Malcolm John Meade I.S.C., Her Britannic Majesty's

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, and Sheikh Mubarik bin Sheikh Sabah, the former on behalf of the British Government, and the latter on behalf of himself, his heirs, and successors, do each, in the presence of witnesses, affix their signatures, on this the tenth day of Ramazan 1316 corresponding to the twenty third day of January 1899.

(sgd) M. J. Meade
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

sgd. Mubarik-al-Sabah
(L.S)

(sgd) E. Wickham Hore, Capt; I. M. S.
(sgd) J. Calcott Gaskin
Witnesses
Mohamed Rahim bin Abdulnebi Saffer
(L.S)



 44

23rd January 1899

From
Pol: Resident
Persian Gulf

To
Sheikh Mubarik
bin Sabah
Sheikh of Koweit

Translation will be found on following page

J.C.G.
2/99

من كرنيل ميد باليوز قونسل جنرال الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليس في خليج فارس

الى جناب حميد السجايا والمناقب عمدة الصحاب الاخير الافخم الشيخ مبارك بن صباح حاكم الكويت المحترم

دام بقاه بعد السلام والسؤال عن عزيز خاطركم الشريف نعرض جنابكم بالنسبة الى المقاولة المنعقدة

بالبين بيننا فيما بين جنابك الشيخ مبارك بن صباح عن قبل نفسك وورثتك واخلافك

ومن طرف الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليس فالآن لكونك شيخا للكويت نحن نصرح

لجنابك باستدامة الافعال الحسنة من جانب دولة جلالة الملكة البريطانية

العظمى بالنسبة اليكم والى ورثتكم واخلافكم ما دام جنابكم وورثتكم واخلافكم

بالدقة والصداقة تراعون شروط المعاهدة المذكورة ثلاث نسخ الفقرات

سترسل الى الهند لاجل التصديق من طرف جناب على الجاه المحترم لورد كرزن اف

كدلستان وايسراي جلالة الملكة القيصرية كورنر جنرال الهند فلما رجعوا منها

نسخة واحدة مصدقة سترسل الى جنابكم وحينئذ يصير الاقدام منا لارسال

خمسة عشر الف روبية سكة اليات من خزانة الدولة في ابو شهر الشرط في اعمال

هذا القرار هو انه يكون مطلقا محفوظا بالستر ولا يشهر بغير تقدم قبول لسنة

من الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليس هذا ودمتم سالمين والسلام حرر في شهر رمضان المبارك سنة [illegible]





45

Translation of Arabic letter. 00036

Secret.

23rd January 1899.

From Lt Colonel M. J. Meade,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To Sheikh Mubarik bin Sabah
Sheikh of Koweit

A/C

In view of the signing today of the agreement, so happily concluded between you Sheikh Mubarik bin Sabah, on behalf of yourself, your heirs and successors on the one part, and myself on behalf of Her Britannic Majesty's Government, I now assure you, as Sheikh of Koweit, of the good offices of the British Government towards you, your heirs and successors as long as you, your heirs and successors scrupulously and faithfully observe the conditions of the said Bond.

The 3 copies of the Bond will be sent to India to be ratified by His Excellency Lord Curzon of Kedleston, Her Imperial Majesty's Viceroy and Governor General, in Council, and on their return, one copy duly ratified will be conveyed to you, when I will take measures to send you as agreed a sum of Rs 15.000 from the Bushire Treasury.

A most important condition of the execution of this agreement is, that it is to be kept absolutely secret and not divulged or made public in any way, without the previous consent of the British Government.

(sgd). M. J. Meade.
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf



/

since heard that she went to Koweit and landed a considerable number of men but shortly reembarked them; for what purpose I have been unable to learn. She returned here on the 23rd en route to Bussorah and I believe intended leaving at the same time as the Lawrence but her engines were out of order and she was unable to leave. Yesterday afternoon a telegram came for her from Bussrah, and this morning she went across the bar steaming very slowly, her destination quite uncertain but probably Koweit. I trust I have not sent the boat to you unnecessarily. The cost will be Rs 26

yrs faithfully
F.W. Johnson



Fao Jan 26

Dear Col Meade
I have ventured to send
boat and Special messenger t
as I have heard some rumou
which I think it is possibl
not have come to yr Know
It is rumoured that Koweit
a very disturbed state owin
news having reached them t
Sheikh of Nejd with a lar
is on the way to attack K
The reason of this attack
goes) is that the sons of S
Mubarak's murdered b
have enlisted the symp
help of the Sheikh of
It was reported that th
Comette when passing
a fortnight since, wa
her way to Guttar be



since heard that she
Koweit and landed a
number of men but sh
reembarked them; for
purpose I have been u
learn. She returned
the 23rd en route to B
and I believe intended
at the same time as
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went across the bar
very slowly, her dest
quite uncertain but
Koweit. I trust I h
sent the boat to you
The cost will be Rs

Yrs faithfull
F.W. Joh



48

To Foreign

Recommend Naval Commander-in-chief may be asked detain Pigeon in Gulf

Meade

27.1.99.

47

Bussorah
Jan. 20. 99

My dear Colonel.

I referred your letter about the payment of Mr Gandhy's salary to Major Melville, as I know nothing whatever about the question beyond the undoubted fact that he certainly will not get



Rec
Com
ask
Gulf
27

a farthing out of me.

The following is the distribution of troops in the Vilayet of Bussorah.

3 Battalions Infantry in Montafik
3 " " Amara
3. " " Nejd & Kateef
4 " " Bussorah
1 battery artillery "

I notice that in the



48

00037

To Foreign

Recommend Naval Commander-in-chief may be asked detain Pigeon in Gulf

Meade

27.1.99.

...ing out of the

...owing is the distribution

... in the Vilayet of

...h.

...lions Infantry in Montafik

" Amara

" " Nejd & Katr

" " Busrah

...y artillery "

...tice that in the

"Gazetteer of Bagdad" Koweit is given as being Turkish territory – p.102 – but this was in 1889, and time works many changes.

The "Pigeon" will leave in ten days or so, as there is unfortunately no further excuse for detaining her here.

Yours sincerely,
A. C. Wratislaw





Tel fr. Foreign

Your telegram of the 20th Janry about Koweit copy of Arabic version of Muskat declaration of 1891 sent direct to Fagan - Foreign -

Rd 24/1/99. [illegible]

Tel to Foreign

Koweit - Secret agreement concluded with Mubarik - I am sending three copies for ratification by H.E. the Viceroy G. G. in Council with report which may be awaited - Meade -

28/1/99.





Copy.

Confidential.

Bushire 24th Jany 1899

Dear Sir William Cunningham,

I am sending you an official report of my visit to Koweit which will I hope prove, on the whole, satisfactory. It was unfortunate that the Turkish Corvette was in the place just at the that time: but it would not ofcourse have done to have taken any special notice of her presence, and as I saw from the papers accounts of the projected Railway, of which Koweit is to be the Terminus at this end. I thought it best to push on, and get an agreement signed as soon as I could. There have been persistent rumours of an attack on Koweit by the nephews aided by various Arab tribes: but I could hear nothing while there to confirm this, and it seems improbable that we would not have heard something if Sheikh Mubarik's position is really precarious. He himself thinks he is quite secure, or professes to think so, and when I asked him if he would like a British gunboat kept near Koweit to assist him if needful he replied that it



was not necessary, as he could defend ~~too~~ himself.
The question about the family estates in Turkish territory is more important than I thought it was, and we will have to do something to insure the Family getting their Revenues if they come regularly under our protection. The Estates are considerable and are said to bring in about £6000/- a year. This may be an exaggeration, but in any case the Sheikhs of Koweit look to them for their chief permanent source of income, and they cannot afford to lose them. Nothing is likely to happen, I should say, till the date harvest, which begins in August, for the trees cannot be easily destroyed, and it is moreover contrary to the religious convictions of these people to do them any injury. When the dates are being gathered, however, the Turks may prevent Mubarik from collecting his share, if they have an idea that he is our man. The agreement with him has been kept as secret as possible, but it was impossible not to consult his brothers, and I think we should




try and make their minds easy by giving them an assurrance that we will protect their property, if necessary.
I find the Turks have the following force in the Busreh Vilayet at present:
3 Battalions of Infantry in Montagih
3 Battalions " Amara
3 " " Nejd & Katr.
4 " " at Busreh itself
1 Battery of Artillery also at Busreh
or 13 Battalions each about 500 strong and 1 Battery.
It will I think be best to keep the Pigeon, now at Busreh, in this part of the Gulf, and I would like the Sphinx also sent back from Maskat, as soon as she is relieved by another gun-boat. I have telegraphed about the Pigeon as I hear that she is likely to leave Busreh soon, and think she should be kept in the Gulf.

Believe me
yours sincerely
(sgd) M. J. Meade



D/. 30. 1. 99. Telegram
From Calcutta To Col: Meade
Bushire

Redbreast left Bombay on 25th January for Maskat. Do you require both Sphinx & Pigeon in Gulf aswell.

F.A. What do you think? Probably Sphinx will be enough when she returns - but till then I think we had better keep Pigeon up here (Sd) M. J. M.
30. 1. 99.

Resdt.
It seems to me advisable to ask for the two gunboats in addition to the Sphinx especially just now there is a crisis at Muscat & matters of importance elsewhere & Lingah also in a precarious state. This need only be temporary; if Muscat affairs subside & there appears later on no cause for apprehension in the north of the Gulf, one might return, but I should say that in the face of P.A. Muscat's recent application on a/c of arms traffic & Lingah trouble, one besides Sphinx should be the lowest number kept in the Gulf
31/1/99. (Sd). E. W. H

52

00041

Tel to Foreign

Your telegram yesterday

I think that besides gunboat at Muskat it is advisable keep 2 ~~a couple are wanted~~ in the Persian Gulf ~~for the present~~ till we see how things go on.

Koweit requires watching and ~~Persian~~ disturbances at ~~intend attacking the rebel Sheikh~~ Lingah likely when the presence of man of war there ~~those~~ will be desirable to protect British interests —

Meade

31/1/99

FA

Let me have that tel/ fr. Foreign about gunboats. I think this reply will do.

[illegible]

31/1/99





Foreign

I have been informed ~~It has come to my knowledge~~ that ~~the~~ Turks tried about 2 months ago to charter a steamer to convey considerable force to Koweit, ~~and~~ but project failed owing to the want sufficient ready money. They have ~~been~~ gradually increased force ~~at~~ Busreh, ~~and~~ though I have not heard ~~of~~ anything indicating immediate action ~~movement~~ I think that they will probably make an attempt on ~~the~~ place before ~~very~~ long–? presence of strong naval force here with instructions to forbid attack

4 1 4 6 3 9




on Koweit ~~seems desirable~~ appears advisable

Meade

2/2/99

Secret Tel.m fr.: Foreign

Your tel.m of the 2nd Feb.. If Turks attempt attack Koweit, naval force instructed to forbid & prevent it.

Recd. 5.2.99. Foreign

Fr. Jask Tel.m to Pigeon

Dy. 5.2.99. Bushire

Indian Govt telegraphs as follows: begins - If Turks attempt attack on Koweit naval force instructed to forbid & prevent it. - ends. Please use your discretion & inform F. A. Confidentially Resident.

Copy forwarded to the Senior Naval officer in the Persian Gulf for information & guidance - The telegram from the Resdt. P.G. to the Secty. to the G. of I. in the For: Dept. referred to in the



54

00043

Secret.

Tel[m] from Govt received at Jask on the 5th Feby reported rumours of an attempt likely to be made on Koweit by the Turkish force at Busreh & recommended that instructions should be sent to the naval Commanders to forbid it.

6/2/99. (Sd) M. J. M.





Tel: to Foreign sent per Redbreast via Jask.

Koweit instructions contained in your telegram received Jask 5th Febry communicated Navy - Stop. Kindly inform me when agreement with Sheikh Mubarik despatched fr. Bushire 30th Janry is ratified -

Meade

7/2/99





56

00045

Copy

Muscat
9th Feby 1899.

Dear Sir William Cunningham -

Please convey to the Viceroy my grateful acknowledgments of his kind approbation contained in the telegram from you wh. reached me just before I left Bushire - You ought to receive my report, No 10. of the 30th Jany soon, & I hope when he sees it that His Excellency will think I did all I could to carry out the instructions I had received - I felt I ought not to delay an hour in getting the agreement signed by the Sheikh, as it was doubtful if I wd have another opportunity once the suspicions of the Turks were aroused - I don't think they knew I was on board the



Lawrence"; as I did not fly the flag
& it was given out that the Ship
had come with a party to shoot
. An attempt was made to prevent
Kendall & Gaskin fr. landing on the
ground of Quarantine: but I told
them to refuse to admit the right of
the Turks to stop them landing -
I have no doubt the "Zohaf" went
to Fao to report the violation of
Quarantine at Koweit by the "Lawrence"
& they may try again to establish
their own rules at the place, with
a view to keep us out of it - As I
thought they might return, I decided
to complete the transaction as well
as I could, & looking back I
don't think I cd have done any



more if I had remained longer

It is unfortunate that the family have so much property in Turkish territory; but there is no help for that — As regards the amount of money to be given ₹15000/- equal to about £1000. - it is well within the sum named - so I hope Govt will be satisfied as far as that goes —

I cannot help thinking that the refusal of the Shaikh's brothers to sign the paper, was a concerted plan between them - either to force me to give some guarantee for their Turkish property - or perhaps to enable a part of the family to keep



in with the Turks, & so to maintain
the estates if we eventually
refuse to support them in regard
to those properties - I think this
because Sheikh Hamud knew quite
well what I was authorised to do,
& must have told the Shaikh
Mubarik - before he met me -
A part of the Turkish property belongs
of course to the rival party - the
nephews - & I expect the actual
income derived fr the whole - wh
was put down by the Sheikh at
£ 6000/- is considerably less than
stated - I am writing separately
about Muskat - Yrs sincerely
M. J. Meade

Copy



60

Dear Colonel

I was ve[ry]
party at Mohomer[ah]
on return was inevit[able]
had good sport.
our Vali that you
seemed to receive
Mr. Melvill
great fun if the Co[...]
difficulties afterwa[rds]
With regard to yo[ur]
movements of tro[ops]
at once when the[...]
the Constantinople

a path from
post to Nejd
I am told it
ride to Kowei[t]
ground is quite
would go easi[ly]
at least wa[...]
depôt here to
though I presum[e]
here have ten[...]
Turkish army
troops and
Bagdad to
obstructed the
them some ti[me]



Bussorah.

26.2.1899

a path from here to Koweit, by which the camel post to Nejd used to go till it was suppressed, but I am told it can hardly be called a road. One can ride to Koweit all night from here, but, though the ground is quite level, I can't say whether artillery would go easily, and for the latter half of the journey at least water would be very scarce. There is no depôt here to fit out a large expeditionary force, though I presume such exists at Baghdad. The troops here have tents however, and you know how little a Turkish army requires in the way of commissariat. Troops and provisions could be towed down from Bagdad to Bussorah in a week or less, but if we obstructed the mouth of the river it would take them some time and preparation to get any further.



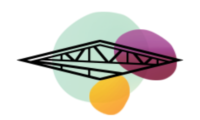
60

59

00548

Baghdad is the headquarters of the Army Corps, and troops enough to swamp Koweit could be sent down in a short time provided the water way was open. The Baghdad Army Corps comprises 24,000 men with the colours, I believe, and there are heaps of Redifs to be drawn on in case of need. (3) I have heard of no attempt on the part of anybody to buy up land at Koweit, but I cannot say what the two Russians are up to. The German Consul at Baghdad also is expected here next week, "for change of air"; but he is said to have Oriental and hardly natural tastes, and may be coming in order to indulge them in greater privacy than can be enjoyed in Baghdad.

I am very sorry that I cannot give you more definite information about roads and military matters, but the suspicions of the Turks are



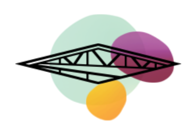
are already aroused and I dare not make open inquiries for fear of attracting attention — and I do not trust my Dragoman unreservedly.

[illegible]

Yours sincerely

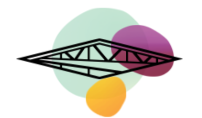
A. C. Wratislaw

P.S. I see that the "Gazetteer of Baghdad" estimates the Army Corps at 42,300, allowing 250 men to a battalion — obviously too little, as our battalions here have 500 men. Cuinet's book says 24,000, and I expect the truth lies between 24,000 and [illegible].



60

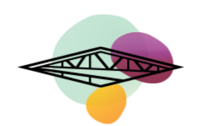
make open enquiries
[illegible]
do not trust
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
estimates
[illegible]
allowing 250 men
[illegible]
tte, as our
[illegible]
Curzon's book
[illegible]
truth.
[illegible]



are already aroused & I dare not make open enquiries for fear of attracting attention — & I do not trust my dragoman unreservedly

P.S. I see that the Gazetteer of Baghdad estimates the Army Corps at 12,300 allowing 250 men per battalion — obviously too little, as our battalions here have 500 men. Cuinet's book says 24,000 & I expect the truth lies between 20 & 24,000.

(Sd) A. C. Wratislaw.



Telegram Fr: Foreign

Koweit. Your no: 10 of 30th Jany with Secret agreement received 11th Feby I do not understand the 3rd provision extending the engagement to territory now in possession of subjects of other Governments. Does it refer to Mubarak's estates near Fao which the Turks have gradually absorbed

Recd. 15/2/99.

Telegram To Foreign

Koweit agreement. I inserted provision to guard against the possible transfer to Russians or others of some house property at Koweit itself owned by Turkish subjects. Mubarak promised not permit any such transfers without previous consent of H. M's Govt.

18/2/99 Meade





Copy Confidential

Muskat.
18.2.99.

Dear Sir William Cunningham

I am sorry I did not explain in my report, why I put in that Proviso about subjects of Foreign Powers not being able to transfer property they now hold at Koweit — I fully intended to have done so — but I have had so many things to look after lately, that it escaped my memory at the time I was writing — I have kept all the Koweit & Muskat papers in my own hands, & copied the report on the former place myself




so I hope you will kindly
excuse the oversight.
I put in the proviso, because
I found that the Mudir of
Busreh - & I believe other Turks
own houses at Koweit itself -
It seemed very desirable that
the transfer of such, to Russians
or others - sd be prevented & I
got the Sheikh to agree not to
allow it - I hope the proviso
will be approved, & that the
agreement will soon be ratified
Believe me
Yrs sincerely
M J Meade

Copy



From Foreign

C0051 63

Your telegram of the 8th Febry agreement ratified on the 16th Febry a hope may be held out to Sheikh Mubarak that British Govt. will do what they can to protect him and his brothers in the matter of their Estates near Fao -

Foreign

Received at Muscat
20.2.99





Copy

No. 10
Confidential

British Consulate,
Busrah, Feby. 6th. 1899

Sir,

With reference to my Despatch No. 8 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to report that a letter has been received by the Wali of Busrah from the Turkish Consul at Bushire, reporting that the British Government appears to be paying increased attention to Koweit; and suggesting that an Ottoman Agent of Experience and with a knowledge of European languages should be appointed at that place to watch events.

Major P. J. Melvill
H. M's Acting Consul General & Resident
&c. &c. &c.
Baghdad



He also stated that the German Government intend to despatch a ship of war to the Persian Gulf, and that a French Agent would probably call at Koweit before long.

I have &c
Sd. A. C. Wratislaw
H.B.M. Consul
Busrah



65

00053

No. 28.

British Consulate,
Busrah Feby 7th 1899.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No. 23 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to forward herewith copy of a further despatch which I have addressed to H.M.'s Acting Consul General at Baghdad on the subject of Koweit.

I have the honor to be
Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant
A. C. Wratislaw
H.B.M.'s Consul
Busrah

Lieut-Colonel M. J. Meade
Political Resident &
Consul General Bushire



arrived he went off in due course and told the Commander that she was contaminated and must not communicate with a nice clean place like Koweit. Whereupon he landed by force ("جبرا") along with you, and went & called on Mubarek. The Doctor has reported this outrage by wire to Constantinople, and I daresay you have already heard from the Embassy about it.

The Doctor tells me that the Sanitary board regard Koweit as being entirely in his district, and that he stationed a "préposé" there by orders from Constple. It seems to me that it will be difficult to avoid raising the question whether Koweit is, or is not, in the Turkish dominions. The Sanitary Board is composed of delegates from all the powers & we are not very popular therein

Yours sincerely
(sd) A. C. Wratislaw



66

Bussorah

Feb. 9. 99

My dear Colonel,

Your little jaunt in the "Lawrence" will probably raise the Koweit question sooner than was expected. On Tuesday I had occasion to call on the Quarantine Doctor, and he showed me a report from his delegate at Koweit stating that when the "Lawrence"

from all the powers & we are not very popular therein

Yours sincerely
(sd) A. C. Wratislaw



arrived he went off in due course and told the Commander that she was contaminated and must not communicate with a nice clean place like Koweit. Thereupon he landed by force ("بزور") alone with you, and went & called on Mubarek. The Doctor has reported this outrage by wire to Constantinople, and I daresay you have already heard from

the Embassy abo[ut] ... the Doctor tells ... Sanitary board ... being entirely in ... that he stationed ... there by orders fr[om] ... It seems to me ... be difficult to ... the question wh[ether] ... is, or is not, ... dominions. The ... Board is comp[osed] ...

from all the powe[rs] ... very popular there ...

Yours s[incerely]

(sd)



Tel. fr. Foreign to Admiral & Resident

67

00054

If preparatory measures are found necessary for defence of Koweit against the Turkish attack please send immediately information in order to enable the Viceroy to afford Her Majesty's Govt. an opportunity to give warning to Turkey before ~~forcibly~~ forcible measures are used on the spot to prevent such attack –

Received 20/2/99 – Foreign





68

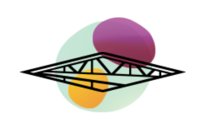
00055

Copy

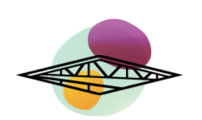
Muskat 21st - 2 - 99.

Dear Admiral Douglas.

I send herewith a telegram from the Foreign Secy for you and myself - wh arrived yesterday - I hope it has been repeated to you at Bushire & that you have heard there all you want to know about Koweit, & the best way to defend it - I do not anticipate any immediate attack being made just now by the Turks but it will perhaps be as well to have some scheme ready, as, sooner or later, they are certain to try & get hold of the place - I think a couple



of gunboats will always be ample
to prevent any force being con-
veyed by sea -; but a move by
land can hardly be met; unless
we are prepared to put a
considerable force in the field -
we ought however to receive ample
notice of any such movements
- wh cannot I sd say take place
much later in the year - & the
Arabs will probably be able to meet
the Turks on land, unless they
bring a very much larger force
than they have available just
now - Unless therefore you have



69

heard anything fresh at Bush[ire]
I should feel inclined not t[o]
advocate sending any land fo[rce]
up there just now.

I shall be very glad to hear
from you on the subject & [shoul]d
like to know your views —

Believe me
yours sincerely
M. J. Meade





70

00057

Confidential.

Baghdad,
8th February, 1899.

Dear Colonel Meade,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 18th ultimo.

Yes, I received the copy of a telegram from the Government of India, which regarding a proposal to declare a British protectorate over Koweit, which you sent through the Consul at Basrah.

There can, I think, be no doubt that a protectorate over Koweit would, if effective, be of great advantage to us; but the Government of India enquires



whether the proposal could be carried out without difficulty, and in my humble opinion it could not. I enclose a copy of a letter which I have sent to Govern--ment on the subject.

It seems to me that, if the Turks were to acquiesce in the proposal (I dont for a moment suppose that they would), they would certainly lose prestige in the eyes of other Arab Sheikhs, who are more or less nominally under Turkish rule and who would probably commence to give the Turks a good deal of trouble.

There is another point on which I have not touched in my letter to Government, partly because I am not quite sure about the matter. ~~and~~ Of course the integrity of the Ottoman Dominions was guaranteed by the treaty of Paris of 1856, but the provisions



 71

of that treaty were modified by the Berlin Conference, though I think the Powers gave a similar guarantee then. I have not got the full text of the Berlin treaty here, and I am therefore unable to ascertain whether I am right about this or not, but, if I am right, I take it that the Turks would promptly appeal to the other Powers in the event of our declaring a protectorate over Koweit. Of course we have never admitted that Turkey has anything to do with Koweit, but the Turks would naturally claim that the place is within the Ottoman Dominions, and I suppose that the question would have to be decided by the Powers. In that event, how would the majority of the Powers decide do you think? I may be all wrong about this, however.

By the way, in the Times weekly edition of the 23rd December, mention is made



of a scheme to construct a railway from Tripoli to Koweit, the syndicate interested including English, French, Russian, and Belgian elements. If there is any truth in that report, would not another element of difficulty be imported into the question of the protectorate?

Yours sincerely,

P. J. Melvill.



72
00059

Confidential.

From the Offg: Political Resident in Turkish Arabia to the Secretary to the Government of India, in the Foreign Department, Calcutta, No.27, dated the 31st January 1899.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have received, through Her Majesty's Consul at Basrah, a copy of your telegram to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, in which I am directed to submit a report on a proposal that Government should declare a protectorate over Koweit.

2. There can, I think, be no doubt that a protectorate would be of immense advantage to us, but I fear that this could not be done without difficulty. I am aware that Her Majesty's Government has never acknowledged Koweit to be under Turkish protection, but I am convinced that the Porte would claim that it is so and would resist any attempt on our part to protect the Sheikh. Indeed, if the Turks were to hear positively that the Sheikh was about to place himself under our protection, it is ~~very likely~~ my belief that they would promptly remove him by force. This they could easily do, for I am informed that Koweit is unprotected on the land side, and the Turks could bring a large body of troops against it in a comparatively short time. In this connection, I may mention that there are persistent rumours that the garrison of Basrah is about to be increased, and it seems probable that these rumours are not without foundation, for the status of the Basrah command has been recently raised, a Commander-in-Chief ~~going~~ having been posted there.

3. Although Her Majesty's Government has never acknowledged Koweit to be under Turkish protection, the Turks would perhaps have reason to protest against another power declaring a protectorate over the place. So long ago as 1856

though



though their allegiance was stated to be merely nominal and though, apparently, they paid no tribute, the inhabitants of Koweit acknowledged the sovereignty of the Ottoman Porte, and used the Turkish flag,* and the state of affairs was very much the same in 1887.+ Recently the Turks have taken a considerable amount of interest in the affairs of Koweit, and it is said that the rumoured increase in the Basrah garrison is not unconnected with a suspicion that we wish to take Koweit under our protection. I am informed, too, (though I cannot vouch for the accuracy of the information) that the present Sheikh now pays tribute to the Turks.

* Bombay Govt.Records, No.XXlV. New series Persian Gulf 1856. Page 296.

\+ Gazetteer of Arabia. Page 44.

4. As you are aware, the present Sheikh of Koweit, Mubarak, murdered his elder brother, Muhammad Pasha, in May 1896, and took possession of the Sheikhship. Mubarak immediately approached the Porte with a view to being recognised, and the heirs of Muhammad Pasha also appealed to the Turks. It would therefore appear that the people of Koweit themselves acknow--ledge Turkish sovereignty, though that sovereignty may be of a somewhat shadowy character. I enclose copies of memoranda on this subject by the dragoman of the Basrah Consulate and by Her Majesty's Consul, dated the 19th October 1896 and the 12th July 1897 respectively.

I have the honour &ca.

(signed) P.J.Melvill, Major.



73

00060

Memorandum by Basrah Consular Dragoman, dated the 19th October 1896.

Sheikh Mubarak who in May last killed his two brothers Muhammad Pasha and Jerrah of Koweit, when they were in their harems, is communicating with the Sublime Porte assuring the Sultan that his late brothers were killed by the Bedouins when he was away from the town and that he (Mubarak) was one of His Imperial Majesty's loyal subjects. He therefore requested that he be appointed Sheikh of Koweit in the place of his brother.

Sheikh of Koweit.

Sheikh Saood and Sheikh Sabah, sons of the murdered Sheikh, Muhammad Pasha, with two younger brothers have com--plained and appealed to the Sultan stating that their father's murderer was their uncle Mubarak. They also claimed that their landed and other properties which have been seized by Mubarak may be restored to them as per title deeds they possess. They furthermore prayed that their uncle may be punished according to law adding that if their prayer was refused they would do what they thought just.

They have engaged two lawyers (from Baghdad and here) who have succeeded in obtaining an order from the Kazi's Court to sequester the present year's date crops of their father's gardens, and the Court appointed Hajji Muhammad Chelebi Abdul Vahid, a member of the Administrative Council, to be the Receiver.

Haji Muhammad with an official and followers went to Fao in a launch taking with him the necessary instructions from the Wali to the Mudir of Fao. The latter however took part of Sheikh Mubarak and prevented Muhammad Chelebi from taking any action in the matter. He afterwards sent private information to Mubarak through Sheikh Jabir (brother of Mubarak) whereupin Mubarak despatched to Fao 500 armed men to

fight



fight and prevent Muhammad Chelebi from sequestering the dates which was given to the "Sarkars"* by Mubarak. *Contractors.

On Muhammad Chelebi's return to Basrah several complaints were submitted to the Sublime Porte who enquired from H.E.the Wali in the matter. His Excellency supported the late Pasha's sons. His Excellency also pointed out to the Porte certain benefits that would accrue from support being given to the sons and tried to induce the Porte to establish formal departments at Koweit and to appoint a Mutasarif and station a battalion of infantry. He undertook to arrange this matter without difficulty by assisting the late Pasha's sons.

It is reported that Sheikh Mubarak has sent thousands of Liras to some officials at Constantinople and Baghdad to support him in his endeavours to obtain from the Sublime Porte the recognition of his appointment. But the Pasha's sons are trying to punish him as the murderer of their father.

(signed) M.Mark.



74

00061

Memorandum by H.B.M's Consul, Basrah, dated the 12th July 1897.

Sheikh Saood, second son of the late Sheikh of Koweit (Muhammad Pasha) who was murdered by Sheikh Mubarak last year paid me a visit on the 10th July, Saturday, at 3.30 P.M. Lieut: Commander Mowbray of H.M.S. "Pigeon" was present at the interview.

The elder brother Sheikh Sabah was unwell and unable to visit me as he had originally intended.

Saood is an intelligent looking youth about 20 years of age but has the appearance of being rather a weak character.

After the usual compliments I invited him to say anything he had to say, whereupon he told me that his father had been murdered by Sheikh Mubarak, adding that he and his brother Sabah escaped by fleeing to the desert and claiming the protection of some Bedouin Sheikh (he did not mention the name) who had his brother and himself safely escorted to Dora the residence of their uncle Yusuf bin Ibrahim Sheikh of that place.

Mubarak seized everything they had including some date gardens near Fao. The sons of the murdered Sheikh appealed to the Sultan for redress and requested that the usurper Mubarak might be turned out and that they might be restored to their position and property.

In the meanwhile Mubarak had written to the Sultan asking that he might be confirmed as Sheikh, declaring that he had not murdered his brother and in order to obtain influen--tial support he proceeded to wholesale bribery, bribing amongst others the Mushir at Baghdad to whom he gave several thousand Liras.

The Turkish Government sequestered the property at

Fao



Fao but Mubarak sent up armed men to Fao and took the date crops by force.

Saood then went on to beg that the British Govt. would give the brothers their support declaring that his brother would unreservedly place himself under British protection and would do everything the British Government wished him to do. He also begged me to use my good offices to induce Jamal Maimani a British Indian merchant here to rent the date gardens at Fao: his idea being that if Jamal Maimani rented the garden it would be incumbent on the British Govt. to see that his property was not interfered with in any way. I merely replied that I would inform my superior authorities what Sheikh Saood had said to me and would inform him of any reply they might send.

I then asked Sheikh Saood where his Uncle Yusuf bin Ibrahim was and he replied that he had no accurate information where he was, but he ~~had~~ admitted that his uncle had made the recent attack on Koweit and that he had with him seven baghlas and about 700 armed men. The interview then ended.

(signed) C.G.F.Fagan.
Major.



00062 75

Tel. fr. Ambassador Constantinople
to Vice Consul Bushire

Following received from Her
Majesty's Consul at Busrah -
The Russian Armenian has
returned - the other two are
now at Koweit + they are both
Mussulmen -

Received 6/3/99

[illegible]





76

Confidential

00063

No. 38 - E/A.

A copy of the foregoing prints is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information.

By order, etc.,

S F Bayley

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Deptt.
Fort William;
The 11th January 1899.

Asia Confidential Prints, section 1, dated the 5th August and section 2, dated the 17th October and section 1, dated the 27th October and 3rd November 1898.





77

00064

ASIA. [August 5.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Mr. de Bunsen to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received August 5.)

(No. 426. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, August 1, 1898.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit a translation which I have obtained privately of a Petition recently presented by Count Kapnist, nephew of the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, to the Ottoman Minister of Public Works, applying for the Concession of a railway from Tripoli, in Syria, to the Persian Gulf.

The course of the proposed line is not quite clearly shown in the document, but as a right of preference is demanded for constructing branch lines to the north from Homs and Miadin (Meyadin), it would seem that it is intended to take the line through those two places. From Miadin its course seems to lie in the general direction of the Euphrates as far as Nedjef, whence there is to be a branch for Kerbela and Bagdad.

The line is to terminate at Koweit.

Preferential rights are reserved for an extension from Bagdad to Mosul and Diarbekir.

In the conversation with Dr. Zander, Director of the Anatolian Railway in Constantinople, of which I sent a summary to your Lordship in my telegram No. 153, Confidential, of the 30th ultimo, I inquired of that gentleman what he thought of this scheme. He said his Company were, of course, watching it, but that they did not regard it as a very serious proposal, or one that was at all likely to be carried out.

Mr. Marinitch, Acting First Dragoman, hears, however, that the Russian proposal is backed by French capitalists; that it is favourably viewed by a number of influential persons at the Porte; and that the Russian Embassy will be instructed to support it.

It is understood that Count Kapnist has waived his demand for a guarantee, and is now ready to build the line without one.

I shall have the honour to report further to your Lordship on the subject of Dr. Zander's proposals by next mail.

I have, &c.

(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Petition.

(Translation.)

I REQUEST that a Concession may be granted to me for the construction and working of a line of railway from the Mediterranean to the Gulf of Bassorah, with a 6 per cent. guarantee from the Imperial Government, and upon the following conditions:—

1. The building and working of a line from Tripoli, in Syria, to Koweit, on the Persian Gulf, the line to be built to admit of a speed of 60 kilom. per hour; the building of a branch line starting from Hanekin, on the Persian frontier, passing through Bagdad and Moussaïb (on the Euphrates) to Nejf and Kerbela; and the construction of ports at Tripoli, in Syria, aud Koweit.

2. The right of preference for the building and the working of the following lines:—

(α.) From Homs to Aleppo.

(β.) One from Miadin, passing through Deïr northwards.

(γ.) One from Bagdad to Mosul and Diarbekir.

(δ.) One from Koot-el-Amara, on the Tigris, as far as the Euphrates, along the bank of the Shat-el-Hadi.

(ε.) One from Alexandretta or Suedia to Aleppo and Birejik.

[1539 *p*—1]



3. All State lands required for the construction of such lines and ports, and their appurtenances, as well as all State stone-quarries necessary, to be placed gratuitously at the disposal of the concessionnaire.

4. The line to be a single one, of broad guage, but the land given must admit of a second line being built later on.

5. All tools and implements required for the construction of such lines and ports to be free from all customs and other duties.

6. The tariffs for passengers and goods to be the same as those now in force in Turkey.

7. The concessionnaire will form a "Société Anonyme" of Ottoman nationality, the internal Statutes of which will be submitted to the approval of the Imperial Government.

8. The sole right of building stations and stopping-places by waters and rivers to be met with in the districts traversed by the railways, as well as store-houses and depôts at the said stations, as well as the towns through which the line will pass, to be exclusively reserved to the concessionnaire.

9. The right of draining and irrigating the lands in the neighbourhood of the Tigris, Euphrates, Shat-e' Hindié, and Shat-el-Arab, to belong to the concessionnaire, the conditions to be identical with those accepted by the Imperial Government in similar undertakings.

10. The concessionnaire will enjoy the right of making the necessary constructions for improving the channel of the above-enumerated rivers and canals, and of navigating them.

11. The concessionnaire will enjoy the right of working any mines or deposits of petroleum or naptha to be discovered within 50 kilom. of the centre of the railway, the concession of which has not yet been accorded to any other person.

I have submitted to His Imperial Majesty the contents of this Petition, and am ready to discuss with the competent Department the Contract to be drawn up, and the terms and conditions of the *cahier des charges*.



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ASIA.

[October 17.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No 525.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 6, 1898.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 13, Commercial, of the 1st instant, informing me of the financial position of Messrs. S. Meger and Co., who are interested in Count Kapnist's railway scheme, and desire that their respectability may be vouched for if inquiries are made.

I shall bear this information in mind, but I venture to remark that the undertaking in question, of which some account is given in Mr. de Bunsen's despatch No. 426 of the 1st August, is a very far-reaching one, extending over regions in the development of which British trade is deeply interested, and that it is likely, if carried out, to come in conflict with other railway projects for reaching the Euphrates and Persian Gulf, which would be more favourable to the British interests involved. I understand that a plan is now on foot for completing the Haiffa Railway to Damascus, and carrying it eventually across the desert to Bagdad and Basrah. It is too early to say whether this particular British enterprise is worthy of encouragement. But, if there is to be railway communication with the Persian Gulf, it would seem undesirable to leave it to be carried out by a Russian Company which leans on its own Government, who would reap the political advantages, for support, but seeks the necessary capital in England.

I am informed that between 12,000,000*l.* and 20,000,000*l.* would be required to complete Count Kapnist's scheme. The Porte is understood to be resolutely opposed to granting kilometric guarantees in future. The financial success of the project is therefore more than doubtful. Its promoters would perhaps be satisfied if it attained the political result of keeping British Companies out of the field.

I should hesitate at all events to encourage British participation in it until we know more of its scope and results.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 2.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received October 17.)

(No. 538.)

My Lord,

Therapia, October 12, 1898.

IN continuation of my despatch No. 525 of the 6th instant, with regard to the Haiffa-Damascus Railway, I have to report that having instructed Mr. Weakley, Commercial Attaché at this Embassy, to make further investigations, I am now informed that the concessionnaire, Mr. Pilling, has declared his ability to construct his railway as far as the Jordan, and demands two years' extension of time in which to find the necessary capital so as to continue the line to Damascus.

In view of the scheme presented by Count Kapnist, it has been suggested to Mr. Pilling to present an application for the continuation of his line to Bagdad and the Persian Gulf, and I understand he is on the point of doing so.

[1649 *k*—2]





I further learn that Mr. Pilling, acting on behalf of the Thames Iron Works Company, has proposed to lend the Turkish Government 7,000,000*l*. at 6 per cent. interest with 1 per cent. sinking fund, and that offers have been made by him for the taking over of the arsenal, the reorganization and reconstruction of the fleet, as well as the rebuilding of the first bridge across the Golden Horn.

The terms upon which the loan will be made have not yet been stated, and will only come up for discussion should the Turkish Government be disposed to accept the offer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.





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ASIA. [October 27.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co. to Foreign Office.—(Received October 27.)

Sir, 6, *Tokenhouse Yard, London, October* 25, 1898.

WITH reference to the interview which you were good enough to accord on Saturday last to our senior partner, Mr. Gerald Walton Williams, and to your request to be furnished with a summary of our position and intentions in connection with the projected railway from Tripoli on the Mediterranean to Koneit on the Persian Gulf, we have the honour to inform you that the scheme, as detailed in the inclosed copy of Count Wladimir Ivanovitch Kapnist's application for the Concession to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, was placed before us some time since by some mutual friends of the Count and ourselves, they being interested with the Count by private agreement in the realization of the project, with the view that our firm should consent to give them its financial support through the instrumentality of its influential connection, in the event of their obtaining the Concession. The scheme being one of international importance, and the Concession being applied for in the name of a Russian subject, our first stipulation before entertaining the suggestion was that Her Majesty's Government should not be opposed to the realization of the project. On this head, we were informed that the scheme had been unofficially communicated to the Foreign Office both by a printed Memorandum in English giving particulars thereof, and by letters of Mr. Edward Easton to the Right Honourable the Marquess of Salisbury, which his Lordship had graciously acknowledged. We were further given to understand that these communications had so far elicited no expression of disapproval on the part of the Government as to the proposed scheme, and that our informants had no reason to anticipate the raising of any official objections thereto in principle.

We thereupon satisfied ourselves that Count Kapnist and his friends stood a reasonable chance of obtaining the Concession, and, having done so, we consented to give them the desired support, at the same time obtaining from Mr. Leopold de Rothschild (whose firm we must, however, state will not, at all events in the present stage, take any financial interest in the venture) a letter of introduction to Mr. Henry St. George Foley at the Foreign Office, in order that the Government should be apprised of our position in regard to the matter and satisfied in respect to our financial reputation and standing. We were subsequently informed by Mr. Easton that the Foreign Office had acquainted their Excellencies the British Ambassadors at Constantinople and at St. Petersburgh that the Government had cognizance of the scheme, and that it appeared to be backed by responsible persons.

Our Mr. Williams had been favoured, on the 27th September, with an interview by his Excellency the Turkish Ambassador in London, at which his Excellency expressed himself pleased at the prospect of English interests being adequately represented in a scheme of such importance to his own country.

Last week we received advices from Constantinople that the application for the Concession had been officially put forward, and that there was every prospect of an Iradé being granted in its favour within a very short period provided certain moneys were lodged in trust for the eventual benefit of sundry persons who had been instrumental in furthering the applicant's interests. The time for action having arrived, we cabled in reply that one of the partners of our firm would proceed to Constantinople this week or next, with full powers to negotiate on behalf of our firm. But before committing ourselves further, we were desirous of assuring ourselves personally that Her Majesty's Government were not opposed to the project in principle, even if they did not see their way at the present juncture to lend us their active moral assistance, and to that end our Mr. Gerald Walton Williams sought the honour of the interview, which you were so kind as to grant him.

As you will have gathered from the printed Memorandum already alluded to, it has been estimated that the total cost of the undertaking would amount to somewhat over 10,000,000*l.*, allowing for the construction and equipment of a railway of standard guage, capable of maintaining a mean speed of 40 miles per hour throughout, as well

[1649 *q*—1]



as for the necessary works to protect the harbours at each terminus and render them safe in all weathers for anchorage, with a 10 per cent. margin for contingencies.

From other sources we are given to understand that the above estimate may be too low, and in order that an unduly sanguine view should not be adopted as a basis, we have assumed that for all practical purposes the flotation of the Company would involve the raising of a capital of something like 15,000,000*l.*, not all at the same time, of course, but by successive issues of various types judiciously spread over the period of construction. Such a capital seems very great when looked at by itself, but it is not so large when compared with that of other undertakings of similar magnitude, and it is estimated that the railway with its branches, comprising over 1,000 miles of track, would, when completed, earn enough to yield a remunerative return upon such outlay, leaving out of the question the Turkish guarantee, to be conceded upon security of tithes in the provinces traversed, of 6 per cent. on a prescribed amount of capital per kilometre constructed. In support of the contention that the suggested capital would not be excessive, we may mention that in the case of the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway (a much less important enterprise), the issue of 4 per cent. obligations has been sanctioned for the purpose of constructing the extensions to Afium Kara Hissar, at the rate of 280,000 fr. per kilometre, which would be equivalent to an aggregate of over 19,000*l.* for the railroad now under discussion, inclusive of its proposed branches. But it must be understood that we ourselves, as stockbrokers, are incompetent to criticise or indorse the technical estimates of railway engineers, and that we cannot hold ourselves responsible for the cost of construction and probable traffic as estimated by experts who know the country.

It is evident that, if the Concession is obtained, a regular, careful, and competent survey of the proposed line will have to be made on behalf of the purchasers of the Concession before final estimates can be drawn up, and a public Company be floated. To that end, we propose, assuming the Iradé to be granted and subsequently confirmed by Imperial Firman, to then form a Syndicate with a capital of about 150,000*l.*, which Syndicate would acquire from the concessionnaire the right to purchase from him the Concession at a figure to be agreed upon, in consideration of refunding to him and his group the preliminary expenses so far incurred, supplying the caution money required by the Porte, and the funds necessary for the full survey and other disbursements preparatory to the formation of a public Company. In due time an appeal to the public would be necessary, and thereupon a Company would be formed to which the Syndicate would transfer its rights and privileges in consideration of the reimbursement of its expenses and a profit commensurate with the risks incurred.

It is naturally difficult to estimate the prospects of raising the capital required for an undertaking which is still in the period of incubation, but we entertain no doubt that, with the Concession in hand and the tacit approval of Her Majesty's Government, we should be able to secure the necessary financial support to carry the matter to a successful issue.

It has been stipulated by Count Kapnist that there shall be reserved half the capital of the Company for issue in Russia, and half its representation on the Board of Directors for persons of Russian nationality. We may point out that the first of these stipulations does not imply that the Russian Government as such shall be entitled to claim a half or any share of proprietorship in the undertaking, but simply that one-half of the capital shall be offered for public subscription in the country. We should, furthermore, negotiate on the basis that Russian representation on the Board should be proportionate to the amount of capital subscribed in Russia, without in any case exceeding half the full strength of the Board. Although the proprietorship of the undertaking must, we understand, according to Turkish law, be nominally vested in an Ottoman Society, the undertaking would in reality belong to the English Company through possession of all the shares in the Ottoman Society.

The above are the main features of the case as it at present stands outside of the scheme itself, with the details of which you are conversant, but we shall be very pleased to furnish you with any further information that you may desire to have, and that it may be in our power to communicate. Meanwhile, it is the intention of our Mr. Augustus Meyers, or, failing him, of our Mr. Gerald Walton Williams, to start on Sunday next for Constantinople, as promised, to assure himself of the substantial prospects held out of the early signature of an Iradé in Count Kapnist's favour, and in such case to make such preliminary financial arrangements on behalf of our firm as he may consider justifiable under the circumstances.

Needless to add that we shall only act on the assumption that Her Majesty's Government, having been apprised to the best of our ability with the main facts of the



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situation, entertain no objection to the scheme in principle, and that, in the contrary event, we shall, upon your condescending to intimate to us that the scheme is officially disapproved, immediately withdraw from the matter.

We take leave to assure you of our paramount wish to act in entire consonance with the views of Her Majesty's Government, and you may rely upon our transmitting to you all essential information which it may interest you to receive as to the eventual progress of the negotiations. If you would permit our partner to give himself the honour of presenting himself to his Excellency the British Ambassador at Constantinople, he would there be in a position to supply more precise and more detailed particulars both of the project itself and of Count Kapnist's prospects of success, after personal investigation on the spot and conference with the various parties concerned.

We do not consider it within our privince to allude here to any political advantages which the scheme may possess from an English point of view, Her Majesty's Government being perfectly acquainted with the subject, but we may perhaps be allowed, in conclusion, to express our very humble opinion that, if Russian subjects were to obtain the Concession, it would be desirable that they should admit to an equal share of its benefits members of our own nationality rather than those of another Power. And there can be little doubt that, if the project is now dropped by the British interests, their abandoned opportunity will be eagerly seized by some financial group of another nationality, anxious for political as well as for financial reasons to acquire increased influence in the country.

We have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAMS, MEYER, AND Co.

P.S.—We have just had the honour to receive from the Under-Secretary of State a letter of introduction to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in favour of our Mr. Williams, for which we are exceedingly obliged.

W., M., AND Co.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorial.

A Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Abdul Hamid Khan II, El Ghazi.

Sire,

J'AI l'honneur de prier humblement votre Majesté Impériale de daigner m'accorder une Concession pour la construction et l'exploitation d'une ligne de chemin de fer qui devra relier la Méditerranée au Golfe Persique, avec une garantie de l'État de 6 pour cent, aux conditions suivantes ou aux telles autres que votre Majesté Impériale trouvera bon de fixer :—

1. La Concession pour la construction et l'exploitation d'une ligne ferrée de Tripoli sur la Méditerranée jusqu'à Koneit sur le Golfe Persique, pouvant transporter des trains parcourant 60 kilom. par heure ; et la construction et l'exploitation des embranchements de Hanikin, sur la frontière Persane, à Kerbela et à Nedjef par Bagdad et Moussayib sur l'Euphrate ; ainsi que la construction et l'exploitation des ports de Tripoli et de Koneit.

2. Le droit de préférence pour la construction et l'exploitation des lignes de chemin de fer suivantes :—

(*a*.) De Koms à Alep.
(*b*.) De Miyadin vers le nord en passant par Deir.
(*c*.) De Bagdad à Moussoul et Diarbekir.
(*d*.) De Kout-el-Amara sur le Tigre jusqu'à l'Euphrate en allant le long du Chatt-ul-Haï.
(*e*.) D'Alexandrette (ou de Shedich) à Alep et à Bizedjik.

3. Les terrains et les carrières appartenant à l'État et nécessaires à la construction de la voie et des ports et de leurs dépendances seront accordés gratuitement au concessionnaire.

4. La ligne sera construite à une seule voie d'une largeur normale, mais l'expropriation sera faite en vue de la construction d'une double voie.

5. Les matériaux et le matériel destinés à servir à la construction de ces lignes et des ports seront exempts de tous droits et impôts quelconques.



6. Le tarif pour les marchandises et les voyageurs sera le même qu'actuellement en vigueur dans l'Empire Ottoman.

7. Le concessionnaire formera une Société Ottomane Anonyme dont les Statuts seront approuvés par le Gouvernement Impérial.

8. Le concessionnaire aura le droit exclusif d'établir des débarcadères et des stations sur les rivières et fleuves, ainsi que des dépôts et magasins dans les stations et dans les villes se trouvant dans la zone du chemin de fer.

9. Le concessionnaire aura le droit de dessécher et d'arroser les terrains dans les bassins du Tigre, de l'Euphrate, du Chatt-el-Hindieh, du Chatt-el-Haï, et du Chatt-el-Arab, dans les mêmes conditions déjà approuvées par le Gouvernement Impérial pour des entreprises analogues.

10. Le concessionnaire aura le droit de construire des bâtiments nécessaires pour la régularisation des fleuves et rivières ci-dessus mentionnés, ainsi que de les naviguer.

11. Le concessionnaire aura le droit d'exploiter toutes les mines et toutes les sources de pétrole et bitume pas encore concédées et se trouvant dans une zone de 50 kilom. de chaque côté de l'axe de la ligne.

Votre Majesté Impériale connaît mieux que personne les immenses avantages qui résulteraient de la réalisation de ce projet pour l'agriculture et le commerce de cette partie importante de son vaste empire, et avant de prendre la liberté de le soumettre à votre Majesté Impériale j'ai eu soin de consulter les capitalistes de l'Europe et je me suis assuré de leur coopération.

Que votre Majesté Impériale daigne ordonner à la Sublime Porte d'examiner le projet avec toute la bienveillance qu'il mérite, projet dont la réalisation dotterait l'Empire de votre Majesté Impériale de l'œuvre la plus grandiose de ce siècle.

Que votre Majesté Impériale daigne agréer, &c.

(Signé) Count WLADIMIR IVANOVITCH KAPNIST.

Heidelberg, le 9 (27) *Juin*, 1898.

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ASIA. [November 3.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir C. Scott.

(No. 227. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1898.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith copies of two despatches from Her Majesty's late Chargé d'Affaires, and Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople,* respecting an application which has been made by Count Kapnist, nephew of the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, for the concession of a railway from Tripoli in Syria to the Persian Gulf.

I further inclose a copy of a letter from Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co.,† a firm of stockbrokers who propose to give their support to the scheme.

I request that your Excellency will furnish me with any observations you may have to offer on these papers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

* Mr. de Bunsen, No. 426, August 1; Sir N. O'Conor, No. 525, October 6; ditto, No. 538, October 1898.
† Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co., October 25, 1898.

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Confidential

No. 114 . E.A.

Received at Muscat 6/2/99

A copy of the foregoing prints is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 38. E.A. (confidential) dated the 11th January 1899.

By order, &c.,

A. W. McMahon

Assistant Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
FORT WILLIAM;
The 24th January 1899.

Asia Confidential Prints section 2, dated the 14th November and section 1, dated the 21st and 30th November 1898.

G. I. C. P. O. - No. 145 F. D.—18-11-98.—1,000.—G. C. R.





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Asia

Confidential.

November 14th

Section 2.

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No. 5.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 585.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 8, 1898.

MR. AUGUSTUS MEYERS, bringing a letter of introduction from your Lordship, called upon me on the 6th instant.

He informed me that his visit was in connection with Count Kapnist's Concession to construct a railway from Tripoli to Bagdad; that Count Kapnist was a mere figure-head; that the capital would be provided by English capitalists; and that Count Kapnist had undertaken to make over his Concession, when obtained, to an Ottoman Limited Liability Company, whose shares would be held in London.

At the same time Mr. Meyers said that Russian capitalists would continue to be interested in the enterprise, and that it would have the support of the Russian Minister of Finance, M. Witte.

His story was incoherent, and I could not make out that any security really existed against Count Kapnist refusing to allow himself to be set aside after the issue of the Sultan's Iradé, which it was Mr. Meyers' object to obtain. I did not think there was any reason for giving him support in the matter—rather, indeed, the contrary; but I asked him to explain, if he could, the question more fully to Mr. Weakley, Commercial Attaché to Her Majesty's Embassy. I believe he did so, but I have not yet heard from Mr. Weakley.

Mr. Meyers talked of taking his Concession, once the Iradé to prospect and study the project was issued, to Messrs. Rothchild, Messrs. Carrell, and other leading financiers, from whom he was pretty sure of support; but I confess I did not like the whole affair, and that it seemed to me to bear out very much what I ventured to say to your Lordship in my despath No. 525 of the 6th October, namely, that it was apparently a project to engage British capital in an enterprise of very questionable financial profit while leaving to the Russians the possible political advantages to be derived from it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

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ASIA.

[November 21.]

CONFIDENTIAL.

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 372. Confidential.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, November 17, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 227, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, inclosing copies of a correspondence respecting an application which has been made by Count Kapnist for the concession of a railway from Tripoli in Syria to the Persian Gulf, which is to be supported by the British firm of stockbrokers, Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co.

In compliance with your Lordship's desire to be furnished with any remarks that I may have to offer on these papers, I would observe that it is difficult for me to pass any opinion on the advantage of this scheme.

I received some weeks ago a visit from a M. Maimon who I understood to be the agent of the concessionnaire, and who had come to St. Petersburgh with the object of interesting the Russian Government in this undertaking, and was accompanied by Count Kapnist, whom I did not see.

M. Maimon explained to me the origin of the application for Count Kapnist's concession, and Messrs. Williams' position towards it, and I was enabled by your Lordship's telegram, marked Commercial of the 30th September, to communicate to him, for his use if necessary, the assurance given by Mr. L. de Rothschild of the financial position of Messrs. Williams' firm.

I have subsequently learnt that Count Kapnist, who has, as I understand, been put forward as ostensible concessionnaire on account of his nationality and name, is only very distantly connected with the Russian Ambassador at Vienna, that he has no private means of his own, or personal influence in this country, and that, although the Russian Foreign Office has made inquiries from the Russian Embassy at Constantinople respecting his concession, they have not evinced any disposition as yet to regard it as seriously meriting official support.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

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ASIA. [November 30.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir J. Ardagh to Foreign Office.—(Received November 30.)

My dear Sir Thomas, 18, *Queen Anne's Gate, London, November* 29, 1898.

I SEND you some observations on the Kapnist scheme inclosed in Mr. de Bunsen's No. 426 of the 1st August.

I have added thereto some speculations on our future development which may be of interest as showing my point of view.

Yours sincerely,
(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Extract from a Memorandum by Sir J. Ardagh on Count Kapnist's Scheme for a Railway between Mediterranean and Persian Gulf—Tripoli to Koweit.

(Secret.)

COUNT KAPNIST appears to be a promoter, who hopes, by the intermediation of certain corrupt officials at Constantinople, for whose eventual benefit a sum of money is to be lodged in trust, to obtain a Concession for the construction of railways from the Mediterranean through the Euphrates and Tigris basins to the Persian Gulf. Williams, Meyer, and Co., are stockbrokers who propose to work the Concession.

The proposals, as set forth in the Petition to the Sultan, are extremely vague, and it may be inferred that neither party knows, or wants to know, anything about the details of the project. They are only concerned in making a profit by floating a Company or Syndicate.

Assuming the main line to pass from Tripoli by Homs, Miaden, Baghdad, Nasriyeh, Basra to Koweit, its length would be about 1,100 miles. The branches mentioned would add about 1,400 miles; making a total of 2,500 miles, or 4,000 kilom.

The gauge of the line is stated to be "broad," *i.e.*, presumably 4 ft. 8½ in. or 5 feet; and it is to admit of a speed of 60 kilom. (37½ miles) an hour, which implies heavy rails, easy gradients, and careful laying and maintenance, on about the scale of our Indian Railways.

The average capital outlay per mile open of the 12,000 miles of 5 ft. 6 in. standard guage lines in India is 158,000 rupees. Converting this at the rate of 1*l.* = 12 rupees (a great deal of the capital having been raised when rupees were worth 2*s.* or more) the capital outlay per mile comes to about 13,000*l.*

Lines recently constructed have cost much less—the 860 miles of the Bengal-Nagpur; the 680 miles of Indian midland; and the 830 miles of Oudh-Rohilkhand, cost about 10,000*l.* per mile; and the 160 miles Delhi-Umbali-Khalka, about 8,000*l.* When it is considered that the Sultan, the Porte, the intermediaries, the concessionnaire, the brokers, and the Syndicate, all expect commensurate profit, before the constructing Company enters the field, it may be anticipated that the line now in question will not be made for less than 15,000*l.* per mile. The main line alone, of 1,100 miles, would at this rate require a capital of 16,500,000*l.* The supplementary branches mentioned in the Concession, would only have the parent Company between them and the subscribing capitalists, and might perhaps be made for 8,000*l.* per mile. At this rate the 1,400 miles of branches might be constructed for 11,200,000*l.*, making a total of 27,700,000*l.* of capital for railways alone.

To this must be added the cost of the two ports at Tripoli and Koweit, and presumably another at Alexandretta; the reclamation, drainage, and irrigation of the lands in the basins of the Euphrates and Tigris; the works needed for the regularization and navigation of these rivers; the exploitation of the mines and petroleum deposits in a belt 100 kilom. (62·5 miles) in width along the railway, which, collectively, would amount to a further sum of at least 3,000,000*l.*, making a grand total of at least 30,000,000*l.*, over which the parent Company would have control. This is the amount of the outstanding portion of the war indemnity due by Turkey to Russia; and

[1726 *d*—1]



between one-half and one-fifth of the new capital annually created in the world, the enterprise may, therefore, be fairly described by Count Kapnist as "l'œuvre la plus grandiose de ce siècle."

The project of the Petition addressed to the Sultan virtually comprises the exclusive right of exploitation of the basins of the Euphrates and Tigris, ports, railways, river navigation, mines, and all land capable of being reclaimed, the holders of such a Concession would undoubtedly have a predominant influence in the country.

As half the capital is to be issued in Russia, and half the Directors are to be persons of Russian nationality, the other halves being distributed over the rest of the world, it is obvious that if such terms are accepted, the preponderance of the uniform moiety of capital and direction over the distributed moiety, is amply provided for, and that the undertaking would be essentially a Russian monopoly. The scheme in this form, appears, therefore, to be one which cannot be commended as a patriotic investment for British capital, or as one which would be consonant with the general interests of this country.

Nor is the basis upon which Messrs. Williams, Meyer, and Co. propose to negotiate, viz., that Russian representation should be proportionate to Russian capital without in any case exceeding half the whole, an adequate safeguard. Nothing short of an assured British majority on the Board of Directors should be considered sufficient to deserve the support of Her Majesty's Government.

From the analogy of other instances of a like nature, it may be inferred that Count Kapnist's reservation was not intended to furnish a field of investment for the surplus capital of private persons in Russia; but rather to create an opportunity for the State financiers of that country to acquire predominant influence in the basins of the Euphrates and Tigris, with a view to their eventual inheritance. There is little surplus capital in Russia, and the ordinary Russian manifests no disposition to invest in "wild-cat" schemes abroad, even when they conduce to the aggrandisement of his country.

The Trans-Caspian, Siberian, and Manchurian Railways; the Russo-Chinese Bank; and the Tehran–Resht road, are all State concerns, and so would be the Mesopotamian undertaking, if worked on Count Kapnist's lines, which appear to be favoured by the Russian Embassy at Constantinople. There is a certain grim humour in the conception of acquiring the reversion of the Euphrates and Tigris basins by means of a so-called International Joint-Stock Company largely supported by British capital, but directed by Russia; and from that point of view 30,000,000*l.* does not appear to be an inordinately great eventual liability; for the expenditure of the sum would in any case be spread over a great many years, and the amount to be raised annually need not exceed 3,000,000*l.*

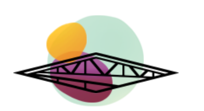
In connection with the Kapnist project, it may be well to call attention to other schemes which Russia is believed to have in contemplation, and to those of other projectors. Persia is now in a condition of unrest which occasions grave anxiety as to its future, and may precipitate a disruption for which even Russia is hardly prepared. Events may force her hand, and compel her to garner the fruit before it becomes altogether ripe. In this event, she will presumably take possession or assume a protectorate over Azerbijan on the west, and a portion of Khorassan on the east. A railway through the former would connect with the Kapnist scheme at Khanikin; and that through the latter would lead from Ashkabad to Meshed, Birjand, and Seistan; from whence there would be an easy route along the Helmand to Kandahar.

The line from Merv in the direction of Herat is already commenced. Its progress beyond the Afghan frontier must await future events, but already suggestions have been thrown out as to the prospect of connecting with Kandahar and Quetta.

These vast conceptions are at present mere castles in the air devised by the military adventurers who play such important parts in the development of Russian frontier policy.

Underlying them are the aspirations for extending Russian power over Turkey, Persia, and Afghanistan, for ports on the Persian Gulf, and, for the invasion of India; to none of which we can afford to be indifferent, although they have not yet become burning questions.

November 28, 1898.



87

No. 25

British Consulate,
Busrah Feby 2d 1899.

Sir

I have the honour to forward herewith the copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to H. M's Acting Consul General at Baghdad on subjects connected with Koweit -

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient
humble servant
A. C. Wratislaw
H. B. M. Consul
Busrah

To
Lieut Colonel M. J. Meade
British Residency &
Consulate General
Bushire





88

00075

Copy

No. 8

British Consulate,
Bussah Feby 2nd 1899.

Sir,

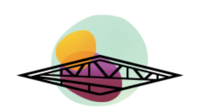
I have the honour to report that a few days ago two Russians arrived here from Baghdad bearing a letter of introduction from the Wali of the former place to the Wali of Bussah, in which the latter was requested to give them a letter of recommendation to the Sheikh of Koweit calling on him to aid them by all means in his power, as requested by the Russian authorities. They have now left this district, and

Major P. J. Melvill
Acting Consul General
&c. &c. Baghdad



are, I believe at Koweit, their ostensible object being trade. One of them was, I hear, at Koweit last year, dealing in lambs' skins.

In this connection I may state that the recent visit of H. M's Resident & Consul General at Bushire to the mouth of the river has caused considerable perturbation in Turkish Official circles here. The arrival of the "Lawrence" at Fao was immediately telegraphed to Busrah by the Mudir of the place, who reported that Colonel Meade was accompanied by a numerous staff and was on business connected with Koweit. The Captain of the Turkish Gunboat "Zohaf", on patrol duty in those parts,



also telegraphed that Colonel Meade had landed at Koweit and had had an interview with Sheikh Mubarek.

In the course of conversation yesterday the Wali remarked to me on the visit of the "Lawrence", and I endeavoured to tranquillise His Excellency by assuring him that Colonel Meade had simply come to the Shatel Arab on a shooting excursion, in which I had myself been invited to take part. But my statement did not appear to impress His Excellency to any remarkable extent.

I have &c
Sd. A. C. Wratislaw
H.B.M. Consul



Telegram To Foreign

Reliable report has reached me that 2 Russians have gone to Koweit viâ Busreh with an order from Turkish Govt. to Sheikh to give them every assistance. It is rumoured that Turks know of my visit & are suspicious. No news of any special military preparations at Busreh

(sd) Meade
11/2/99.



90

00077

Confidential

27th Feb. 99.

My dear Prideaux,

Bulkley at Fao has just returned from Koweit & gives me this information for Resident through Mr Johnson, clerk-in-charge at Fao. Bulkley says "On my arrival met Sheikh & brothers most affable to me & inclined towards us. Said that regards Ibn Rashid, there was pucka news that he intended attacking Koweit in a few days; he was three days' journey from Koweit when I left. Ibn Rashid had on way been looting Bedouins & had put several tribes to flight. I met a Russian who had just arrived & I was told he had come buy astrakan skins but got information that he had no intention doing so;



intended leaving Koweit after three days or so for interior going Busreh Bagdad. Therefore you will see that his short stay could not have been with object buying skins. The Sheikh told me he had, the day that I left, heard Turks intend erecting a line from Busreh to Koweit. I mean a telegraph line but that Mobarak said he should object to their doing so. Said he would let me know definitely about this later on. I will write Col: myself, giving him full particulars later on. What I have given you is just pith of the news."

Here I said "Right! will tell F. A. this. Resdt is not expected in Bushire for few days. Would it be any use the "Pigeon" going Koweit?"

Bulkley said "I don't



91

00078

think so. It would only excite Turks but I will let you know. At present there is nothing of importance from Koweit. I mean that we should show ourselves there, as it is over Lawrence going there it has excited deal anxiety amongst Turks. I will write in full this mail. You will see the inadvisability of "Pigeon" or any other boat going there, because, as soon as Turks here heard I had gone Koweit, they wired to Busreh, so I hear. It's best keep mum & quiet for few days, so as to let them cool down."

sic. Sk.

I said I would send this on to you.

Bulkley said "Right! but impress on him that, in my opinion, it is not advisable at least not just now send any boat there,

because they cannot
interfere in quarrel or fight
that might take place
between Ibn Rashid &
Mobarak.

Mr Johnson at Fao tells
me that the Turks are
making a deal of fuss over
Bulkley's trip to Koweit &
wanted to put the whole
station in quarantine
saying Bulkley had gone
over to the Persian side.
The boatmen & Bulkley's
guide, a man named Khazal,
have all run away to the
Persian side of river.

Bulkley is in great state
of mind about this!

(Sd) G. Mungavin.

Resident.

Since receipt of this,
we have had no news from
Koweit. I daresay you
have recd. Bulkley's letter
before now

5/3/99. Sd. F.B.P.



Fao
1st March '99

Dear Colonel Meade.
On my return from Koweit last Sunday I gave Mr Johnson a brief summary of news picked up at Koweit, to which place I had been on a few days leave. This information he wired to you through Mr Mungavin as requested.
Sheikh 'Mubarak and all his brothers were very kind, and seemed well disposed towards British. Gabur the youngest was most anxious for information on various subjects such as;
"What would happen were 'Mubarak to claim British protection"?
"Would the Turks allow this without interference"? "Would 'Mubarak be helped by us in the event of trouble between him and the Turks"? etc. etc.



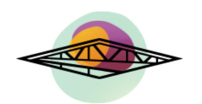
him myself though I saw him often, and he only spoke Russian & Turkish, so I heard. He interviewed 'Mubarak several times, who afterwards informed me that he (the Russian) on one occasion wanted to know why he ('Mubarak) did not make friends with Russia. 'Mubarak told him that Russia was too far away, and that the British were and had always been his firm friends etc.
There seemed to be a general impression, that there was a likelihood of a Russian Consulate being established at Koweit. 'Mubarak made no mention of this to me.
The night I left 'Mubarak called me into his private room and told me that he had heard that the



Mubarak seemed to me to be a bit uneasy about something, and told me that the Captain of the Turkish corvette which was at Koweit at the time the "Lawrence" went there, had threatened to report him to the Wali for having allowed a party from the "Lawrence" to land, with other threats.
I saw a Russian who was supposed to have come to Koweit, for the purpose of buying astrakan skins, but I think this improbable, as his stay was so short. (four days), moreover the Sheikh's ex munshi informed me confidentially that he had come for the purpose of gathering information and prying into Koweit affairs etc.
During his stay he was put up by a Turcoman a resident of Koweit and was constantly in his company. I had no opportunity of speaking to



Turks intended erecting a telegraph line from Zoobair, near Busreh, to Koweit, but to this he appeared much averse. He begged me to tell you the Turks had been and were still his enemies and he had grave fears of being seized one of these days by them. He said that he expected an attack by Ibn Rashid of Nejd who was then four days march from Koweit, and had been looting the Bedouins throughout the interior. This attack, no doubt he said, was due to his quarrel with Yusuf bin Ebrahim and had been encouraged by Turkish intrigue. He said he intended fighting and was fully prepared. I hear today that he has given orders that no one was to be allowed out after 8 o'clock in the evening or else they would be shot as being Ibn Rashid's men. He has promised to supply me with any Koweit news by special private messenger as he seemed averse to writing letters for fear they should miscarry.



II

94

'Mbarak wished me to give you his compliments, and trusted you were well, with other kind speeches.
On my return to Fao I found the Turks had been much excited for some days, as they said I had gone to Dindian on the Persian side and wanted to put me into quarantine, but they relinquished this idea on my supplying them with a written statement that I had been to Koweit. Their true motive now appeared, which was, to seize and extort money from the nakoda of the boat for having taken me to Koweit, and to imprison my man Khazal, whom I engaged to assist me while there. To evade the Turks the men have escaped to the Persian side of the river and are afraid to return.



as my servant.
I think you will agree with me
that this is a very hard case,
as the man is perfectly innocent
of harm, with the exception of having
accompanied me to Koweit, and
being in communication with
us generally, which the Turks
have made a pretext for
molesting him.
I shall let you have what news
I get by wire through Mr. Johnson.
Trusting you and Mrs. Meade
are very well with kind regards
I remain Yrs Sincerely

Buckley



96

rward.
will agree with me
is a very hard case,
n is perfectly innocent
ith the exception of having
id me to Koweit, and
mmunication with
lly, which the Turks
de a pretext for
him.
t you have what news
ire through Mr Johnson.
ton and Mrs Meade
ll with kind regards
main Yrs Sincerely
Buckley

95

This incident will prove to you the state of affairs here with the Turks, who long since have given the Arabs, other than Govt. servants, to understand that they will be punished if they hold any communication with the English, and you will understand how difficult it is for me to obtain information from Arabs under these circumstances.
For this purpose I have always found Khazal most useful, and the Turks have been most antagonistic to him since the Lawrence episode at Fadagiah last year, of which no doubt Captain Kendall has told you about. His (Khazal's) services are now unavailable as he is afraid to return to this side as matters now stand.
Would it be possible for him to become a British subject? in which case I should willingly engage him





96

00083

Recd 6/3/99

No. 257 E.A

FROM

THE Under SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
in the Foreign Department,

To

The Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf.

Dated Fort William, the 16th February 1899.

SIR,

With reference to your letter No. 10, dated the 30th January, 1899, I am directed to return two counterparts of the agreement in Arabic concluded with the Sheikh of Koweit duly ratified by His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General.

2. The duplicate should be retained confidentially in your office, and the triplicate handed to the Sheikh of Koweit.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant
J Lang
Offg. Under Secretary to the
Govt. of India.





Confidential 0008 97

No. 57 of 1899.

8th March 1899

The Residency Agent
Bahrein

A/C Referring to my conversation with you while at Bahrein please be good enough to write confidentially to the friend whom I had the pleasure of meeting with you in January last and inform him in reply to his letter to you dated the 9th February 1899 that he had better send without fail, as soon as practicable, a confidential trustworthy person to you at Bahrein

~~that he is to send in~~ ~~should~~ ~~to~~

File
Misc
14/3

وكيل البحرين

نذكرك بالنسبة لمحادثتنا معك في ايام حضورنا بالبحرين [illegible]

ان تكتب محرمانا الى الصديق الذي بالمسرة تلاقينا معه [illegible]

في شهر جنوري الماضي وخبره في جواب كتابه اليك المورخ ٩ فبروري ١٨٩٩

بانه الاحسن والاولى له ان يرسل على كل حال واسرع ما يكون شخصا امينا

صاحب سر اليك في البحرين [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

طارش صديقنا اليك فنحن نرسل اليه [illegible]

هذا حرر في ٢٥ شوال الكريم سنة ١٣١٦ [illegible]



to meet the
communication he
expects to receive
regarding the matter
You can reassure the mind of our friend &
his brothers Confidentially I leave
this to your discretion.

Wilson
Pol Resident in
the Persian Gulf

JCG

You should inform me
without delay of the
arrival of our friend's
agent and I will send
you further instructions

Wilson

Resident.
I have filled in the date of the Sheikh's
letter to Agha Md. Rahim & have
despatched the original of this under
double covers (Sd.) J. C. G.
12/3/99.



00085 98

Put with Koweit file

Dear Prideaux,
Do you think we
s^d ask Mr Robinson to
try & ascertain what
these Sir Rushes a
Koweit are
up to? If so
you had better
send a copy D.O.
to Gaskin telling
him to push
inquiries to the
utmost.

British Consulate
Bussorah March 10.99

I have the honour to forward

No: 12 of March 6.99 herewith the copy of a Despatch

which I have addressed to Her

Majesty's Ambassador at

Constantinople concerning Russian

visitors to Koweit.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble servant;
A. C. Wratislaw

Lieut. Col. M. Meade
&c &c &c
British Residency & Consulate
General
Bushire

Write to Mr
G. C. White
telling him
to make
himself
& say it is
by my
orders.
Robertson
you
give
a copy of
his letter.
[illegible]
13/3.





99

00000

Bussorah

March 6. 1899

Copy.

No: 12

Confidential.

Sir,

With reference to my Despatch No: 10 of the 25th Ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have seen Mr. Ovanessof, the Russian Armenian of whose visit to Koweit I have already informed Your Excellency. He told me that the other two Russian subjects, Abbas Alioff and Abdullah, are still at Koweit. They are natives of the Caucasus, and Abbas, at least, is a well educated man, speaking Russian, Turkish, and

His Excellency
Sir N. R. O'Conor G.C.B.



and Arabic. He has hired a house at Koweit, and proposes to stay there some time and buy up lambskins.

I have no doubt that this trio are really engaged in trade, but it is quite possible that they are at the same time in the temporary employ of the Russian Consulate at Baghdad. Ovanessof appears to be an extremely intelligent man. He informed my dragoman that the Russian Consul at Baghdad had offered him the post of unpaid Vice Consul at Bussorah, but that he had declined

it



it unless a salary were attached thereto.

Sheikh Mubarek is absolute master within his own territory, and any Russian intrigues would have to be worked through him. Colonel Meade is in touch with him, and would doubtless hear and report any attempt to buy up land or otherwise tamper with Koweit.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. C. Wratislaw





Confidential

101

00088

BRITISH RESIDENCY PERSIAN GULF

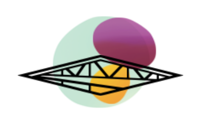
Bushire
13th March 1899

File

Dear Gaskin

The Resident wishes you to write confidentially to Agha Mahomed Rahim under direction, to try & make such enquiries as he can about the three Russian subjects, who are said to have taken up their quarters temporarily in Kowait. Their names are said to be Ovanessof, an Armenian, & Abbas Aliof & Abdullah, Mahomedans.

Please do so by this mail & send me a copy of your letter for the



file.

Yours sincerely

F. B. Prideaux



102

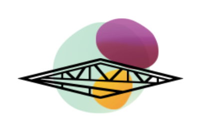
Dear Captain Pridcaux

Your letter was brought to me by the last Dowar consequently I dictated the letter to Agha Mohamed Rahim in Arabic to avoid delaying the Mails, and I put the translation in ~~after~~ office copy after the original had been posted.

I enclose herewith copy of my letter to Agha Moh^d Rahim.

Yours sincerely
J Calcott Gaskin

13th March 99.





112
103
00050

No 10 of 1899

Confidential 13th March 99

The Residency Agent
Bahrein

&c

I am desired by the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to inform you ~~that~~ confidentially that there are three Russian subjects residing at Koweit, one of them is an Armenian named Avanessof, and the other two are Mohamedans named Abbas Aliof and Abdullah, and that he wishes you to make full enquiries from Koweit regarding their intentions and business there, also you should transmit without delay any information reaching you in this connection.

You might also appoint some one on your own behalf to report to you their proceedings during their stay at Koweit

J.C.G.

Extra Asst to the
Pol: Resident Persian Gulf

[Arabic marginal note:]

جناب مستر كاسكل الى آغا محمد رحيم

حيث ان جناب المعظم البالوز [illegible] نعرف جنابكم محرمانا ان ثلاثة انفار من رعايا الدولة المسقوفية

ساكنين في الكويت احدهم ارمني يسمى اوانيسوف واثنان منهم مسلم احدهما يسمى عباس علييف

والاخر عبد الله [illegible] ان تستعلموا تحقيقات كاملة من الكويت

عن تفصيل عملهم ومقصد اشتغالهم وغير ذلك من التحقيقات اللازمة وتكون تخبرنا سريعا

كل خبر يصلكم في هذا الباب وتكون [illegible] الاخبار عن حركات

هؤلاء الساكنين في الكويت [illegible]

تحريرا غرة ذي القعدة سنة ١٣١٦ مطابق ١٣ مارس ١٨٩٩





112

104

00091

Tel. fr. Foreign

Please arrange with Vice Consul at Busreh by quickest means at your disposal that he should send immediately information of any probable movements of Turkish troops towards Koweit. Vice Consul can perhaps send a telegram ~~tel~~ from Fao.

Foreign

16/3/99



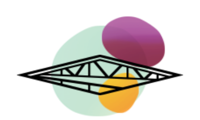
Telegram sent to C.C. Fao through
Mr Mungavin A.S. Bushire

Please send following to Commander
of the Lawrence now near
Mohammerah by special
kossid. Begins - Please
ascertain from Consul Busreh
if he has any news of importance
to send me. If so, please
arrange to bring it down to
Fao & telegraph it through
C.C. Ends.

Please add that
Lawrence should stay off
Fao, so that Resident can
communicate with
Consul(?) if necessary. Ends.

(Sd.) M. J. M.

17/3/-



F.A.
There is no letter fr. Consul Busreh & [illegible] this letter has any information or reference? AK

There is a letter fr. Kerdosi dated 18th wh. says nothing of movement of troops. 3 [illegible] 18th [illegible] I think no
PTO

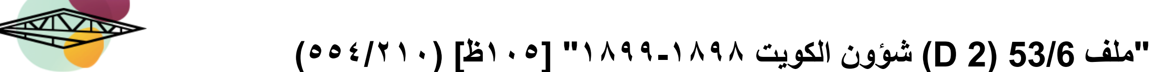
Dear Colonel Meade

I hear on good authority the Turks are amassing a large number of troops at Busrah, and rumour here, has it, that some of these are to be sent to Kowcit, overland, via Zoobair. I am sending Khazal to Kowcit in a few days to get what news there is and to find out if there is any truth in the above report. With kind regards. I remain

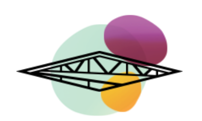
Yrs sincerely

[signature] Buckley





letter fr. Wratislaw means that there is nothing fresh to tell us: but you might ask Mungavin to tell Fao that message had not reached Comr. Lawrence on the 18th. I wd. also like if possible & if it can be done without exciting suspicion to find out if the mail steamer has any news of movements of troops at Busrah. It is most important that we sd. get the earliest information, & I think [illegible]



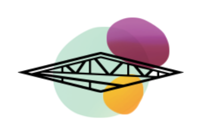
 106

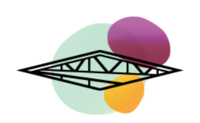
...means that
...y pasha to
...might ...
...le Fao that
...ut reached
...e on the 18th
...possible & if
...without exciting
...d out if there
...has any
...ments of troops
It is most important
...the earliest
...I think longer

Reply to the last tel fr the G of I. If the Turks attempt a coup de main on K. & we are caught napping it will be a very bad business - Come over as soon as you can -

Yrs
Ussmonde

19.3.99





107

94

Secret

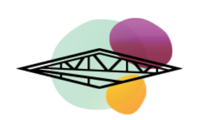
Bushire
20/3/99.

My dear Wratislaw -

The Govt of India are anxious to get the earliest possible news of any movements on the part of the Turks, against Koweit - The last mail brought no information from you; but the Clerk at Fao wrote to say that he hears the Turks are massing troops with a view to marching to Koweit via Zobair.




Please let me know as soon
as possible of any such intention
If you send a message by
boat to Fao with the words -
"There are few snipe left"
I will understand that it
means the Turks are on the
move, or about to move by
land. If you add "On the River"
I will understand they are
going by the Shat-al-Arab

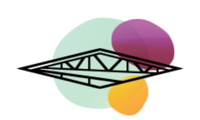


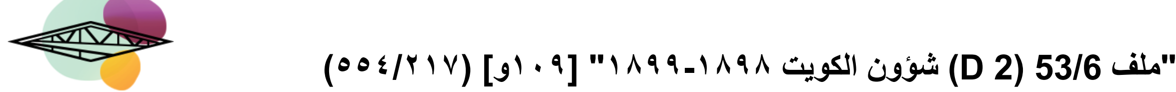


95-A
108

The Clerk at Fao will wire it over at once free of cost to the Assist. Supt. here - so it will not go into the Turkish office at all - You had better at the same time inform the Ambassador at Constantinople by a cipher wire - wh. he will pass on to the Govt. of India

Believe me
yrs sincerely
M. J. Meade





109

00095

Copy

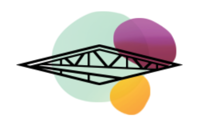
Confidential

Bushire
20/3/99

My dear Kendall

Govt. have heard rumours of movements of Turkish troops against K. They asked me to find out at once fr. Wratislaw. So I sent a message to you via Fao. I want you please to come to Fao & bring his answer. I wd like you to stay there a few days until we see how things go. No news here. Hope you are all flourishing & with our best salaams,

Yrs sincerely
M. J. Meade



Telegram
20th

From Bushire
To Resident

Following from Johnson Fao. Begins "Kassid arrived afternoon 18th & was forwarded to Busreh same night. As soon as reply arrives, I will proceed Fao unless I hear from you to contrary. Survey not yet finished. Kendall." Ends.

20/3/99 Meade



110

٣٣١
١٨٩٩

00096

Translate
18/3

من بحرين ريوت ١٥ مارچ ١٨٩٩

حضرة جناب عالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاكرم الافخم الفا الكرنل ميد باليوز وقونسل جنرال

دام بجاه آمين   لعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العليه لازلتم في خير وعافيه
ونحن في ابرك الاوقات واشرف الساعات تشرفت بكتابكم السامي لنمرة ٥٧ المورخ
في ٢٥ شوال ١٣١٦ مطابق ٧ مارچ ١٨٩٩ وما عرفتم فصار معلوم امرتم ان اكتب الى
صاحبنا الذي تلاقينا معه في شهر جنوري الماضي واخبره عن جواب كتابه لجنابكم
المورخ في ٢٧ رمضان مطابق ١٠ فبروري الاحسن والاولى له ان يرسل على كل حال
شخصا امينا صاحب سر عندنا في البحرين يوقف لتحرير الذي هو ينتظر ان يوصل اليه
من طرف المادة فلا يخفى سعادتكم اننا قبل وصول اوامركم هذا كتبنا له كتاب
وهذا سواده واصلا لخطركم لفا وبعد ما كتبنا له انه يرسل الشخص الذي عيناه بوجه
السرعة وسواده ايضا يصلكم بالجوف واننا في انتظار وصوله فاذا وصل عرضنا كسيرها
هذا ما لزم بيانه ودمتم سالمين وكله حرر في ٣ ذي القعدة سنة ١٣١٦ مطابق ١٥ مارچ ١٨٩٩
صحيح محمد رحيم بن عبد النبي صفر

No. 33.

15th March 1899.

From Residency Agent
Bahrein

To Resident

&c.

I have recd. your letter No. 57 dated 7th March and what you wrote is understood. You instructed me to write to our friend, whom we met in January last and to inform him in reply to his letter to me dated the



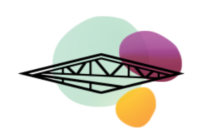
9th February that it is better for him to send without fail a confidential trustworthy person to me at Bahrein to await the communication he expects to receive regarding the matter.

Let it not be unknown to you that prior to the receipt of your orders I wrote him a letter a copy of which I enclose for your information. I have again written to him to send quickly the person whom I named. and a copy of which letter is also enclosed.

I am looking out for the arrival of the person and when he reaches here I will quickly inform you.

(Sgd) Mohamed Rahim bin Abdulnebi Saffer.

JCG
30/3/99



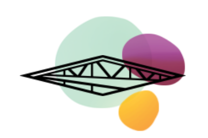
111

سواد

... في خير وسرور وادام الله بقاك نعرف سعادتكم جناب الصاحب بعد تصفية امر الدولة من مسقط قد رجع الى طرفنا ولابد يبلغكم
الذي جرا بينهم في مسقط مع حكومة المسقط بعد وصوله حصل عندنا ستة ايام فالبيت وصار محادثة اللازمة وما هي حجة
مواد المعهوده وهو يبلغكم سلام التام والامور جميله ولنا بعض المذاكرات والكيفيات اللازمة التي يلزم اطلاع
سعادتكم عليها والمامول من جنابكم سترا بلا امر عليكم ان ترسلون الى طرفنا الاخ عبد الله بن ابراهيم الشحكه
الذي معتمدكم مرادي مواجهة المذكور

في مادة المعهوده واستحصال الامر بموافقة الاخوان وحصول الاطمينان اذكركم ان المخلص وجناب صاحب الكبير اشرنا
اليكم في وقت الذي تشرفنا بخدمتكم وما وعدنا لم يحصل لنا حل بهذا الارادة ولا صار بمحله فسيانكم ...
وتسير خاطر الاخوان بهذا الارادة ويمكن اجتماعنا والتشرف بخدمتكم من قريب والله شاهد كفاية ولكم ...
ومعلوم ابن رشيد ما عرفتم صار سالم فان كان حدث امر نعلمكم ... ودمتم سالمين

١٣١٦





5th March 1899.

From Agha Mohamed Rahim
To Sheikh Mobarek Al Subah
A/c.

I beg to inform you that the Sahib after settling the Government business at Muskat has called here. No doubt you have heard of his action with the Sultan of Muskat. After his arrival he remained with us 6 days and reference was made regarding the ~~[illegible]~~ matter known to you and he sends you ample greetings. The affairs are bright and I have some communications and necessary information which it is necessary for you to know. and it is hoped of you will secretly send to me Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsamahir whom you trust I desire to see him.

With reference to matter known to you & the finishing of the affair by the consent of the brothers and obtaining of tranquility the Great Sahib and I mentioned to you when we met you and promised you to pacify your mind according to (your) desires and no unmindfulness took place. And by the Grace of God

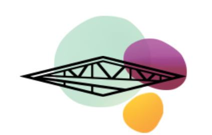


that which will make your mind and those of your brothers happy will reach you according to the desires. My meeting with you shortly is possible and the limit is sufficient.

The news regarding Bin Rashid has been understood and if anything occurs or there is information regarding any matters, I trust you will quickly inform me of it.

Sgd Mubd Rahim

JCW
20/3/99.



113

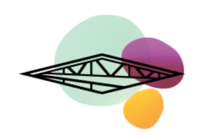
00099

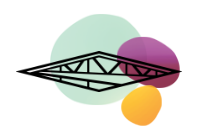
سواد كتاب [illegible]

حضرة [illegible]

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته ومغفرته ومرضاته [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]

ودمتم [illegible] ٣ ق ١٣١٦ [illegible]






114

15th March 99.

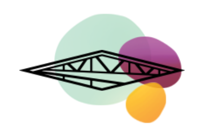
00100

From Agha Mohd Rahim
To Sheikh Mobarak AlSubah
A/C

I wrote you a letter dated the 5th March and sent it with Ibrahim bin Amor and informed you that I wished you to send me secretly Abdullah bin Ibrahim AlSamahoo for the purpose of communicating with him regarding the matter known to you, as it has come about as desired. Whether he can come by the boom direct or by the Mail Steamer is for your consideration. Finally I am awaiting his early arrival. Two days ago I received a letter from the Sahib and sent you many greetings. This is what was necessary to inform you. Please inform me of what you may require & hope you will always inform me of your safety, together with any news & occurrences taking place on your side. Give my greetings to all the brothers and the sons.

(Sgd) Mohd Rahim

JCll
3/3/99.





نمبر ٣٥

من البحرين مرقوت ١٧ مارج ١٨٩٩

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الصاحب الكرنل ميد باليوز و قونسل

[Marginal, diagonal:] وصلت بمجبه سفينة [illegible] خليج فارس [illegible]

دام مجده آمين بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العليه لازلتم في خير وعافيه
ولا يخفى سعادتكم بانه بكتابنا المنمبر ٣٣ المورخ في ٣ ذي القعده الحرام سنه ١٣١٦
مطابق في ١٥ مارچ سنه ١٨٩٩ الوصول لحظرتكم في سمبوك غلامحسين صحبة الناخدا
زاير علي الشروح فيه المذاكره فيما بيننا وصدليقنا العلوم عندكم نرجو الله وصلكم وحصلتم
به علماً ولايخفاكم ان من بعده بيوم واحد وصلنا منه كتاب صحبة شخص من طرفه
يسما خليل بن ابراهيم وبجوفه شقتين شارحاً فيهم المواد اللتي ستطلعون عليها
وهم واصلين لحظرتكم لفاً فلاجل ذلك عمدنا ما سنوه مخصوصه وفيها خادمنا عبد الكريم
الوزان بكتابنا هذا ونرجوان فيما سرع يرجع بالجواب منكم وجب اوكد نعمل هذا ما
لزم عرضه ودمتم محروسين والسلام حرر في ٥ ذي القعده سنه ١٣١٦ مطابق ١٧ مارچ ١٨٩٩
صحيح محمد رحيم بن عبد النبي صفر

ومن جهة الشخص الذي عرفناه بان يرسله لحظرتنا الى ناريخه لم وصل فاذا وصل سوف نعرفكم وكذلك
صحيح محمد رحيم بن عبد النبي صفر

No. 35. 17th march 1899.

From Residency Agent
Bahrein
To Resident

A.C. With reference to my letter No. 33
dated 15th march 1899 sent by Sambook
of Gholam Hussein by Nackhada Zair
Ali, in which is written the negotiations



between us and our friend who is known to you, I pray of God that it has reached you and you have understood it.

Let it not be hidden to you that a day later I received a letter from him by a person sent by him named Khalil bin Ibrahim in which there were two enclosures referring to matters which you will understand. They are enclosed herein.

For this purpose I have sent my servant Abdulrahman Wazzan in a special boat with this letter and beg an early reply and I will carry out your orders.

(Sgd) Mohd. Rahim bin Abdulrahim
Saffer

P.S. With reference to the person whom I named he should send to me, up to date he has not come and when he arrives I will inform you.

JCH
2/3/99



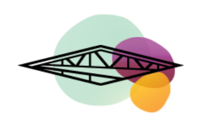
46

اخي دمة محروسًا با الالطاف الربانيه

يا محب اني اعتمد شفقتكم وانا بالأول كتبت لك ووضحت لك وبينت لك مسئلة
الاملاك الذي في البصرة ان يكون تدخل بالحماية لانه الربع انا مشتهيهم وراغب فيهم
بحسب حبيتهم على لسنهم وانا ما اتقاسى بروحي البحرين واهل عمان المذكورين مالهم
اتباع فقط كلاً وبلد وانا مثلما تعرف بالبصرة املاك قسيم وعشاير بالبر والربع
المعهودية كثير يبلد دون من الجهال عنهم ولابد حترون الاشيا الذي الحق حيني
لهم من حيث بصير خلا عظيم في اطرافهم هذي الآن انا على الجواب الي اعطيتك
انشاء الله ما اختلف عنه اذا اني أمنت على الاملاك وايضًا خلاء من الرجال الحسني في
الدولة القيصرية معدوجًا فيه الاملاك تدخل بالحماية عن التعدية الباطل كما انها
جملة النظر علينا ليضا الاملاك كزالك الذي بالبصرة تكون تحت الحماية وعن اول
الأخوان الله يبارك فيهم ما عندهم خلافه ومقصدهم فقط الاملاك وهم
ما يبقى منهم غير الخير محفوظ ما يبقى الآن من الربع ارجو كم تستحصلون
الى امر الأجل الاطمئنانه الحال والا انا للغاية ممنون لربع حالتي

(? Bu

(? Turkis)



(? Turkis)



117

00103

From

Mubarek bin Subah

A.C.

I have confidence in your friendship, I at the beginning wrote to you and explained to you and stated to you the matter of the properties at Busreh to the effect that they should be included in the protection as I want and desire the *friends because of the protection they exercise over their subjects I am not to be compared with the Sheikh of Bahrein and the inhabitants of Oman, who have no followers (or appendages) but I as you know have large properties in Busreh and tribes in the plains, and the ?friends whom you know well be very angry of my removing myself from them and will not respect ~~our~~ the matter which may cause me to go to them, as ~~they will be great~~ ~~oppression~~ as there will be a great danger near them. I still hold to the promise I gave you and please God I will not act to the contrary if I obtain security of the properties and I want a letter from the gentleman, this from the British

(? Turks)



Government stating that the properties are under protection against illegal tyrannies. As the Government has extended their protection to us, the properties in Busreh should also be under protection.

With reference to my brothers, God bless them - they entertain no opposition and their wishes are regarding the properties. They will not give information, and it is kept secret. But with ~~f~~ reference to the friends I beg of you to obtain for me some thing which will create confidence in the mind I am wholly obliged to the friends

(signed) Mobarek.

JCW
20/3/99.



118

يا محب قبل تاريخه بايام ورد مكتوب من والي البصرة واهو تلوزني
يحتشو من البصرة برا الى الكويت ولاحسا وطالبين منا المساعده
وناخذ الى دوب ورددنا لهم جواب تعذرنا هذا ما يصير والبصرة
يسئلون عن جيشهم قلنا لهم عاده دايماً يجون ويروحون
البصرة جاء الاخبار ما هو تلواق لعاد يكون وتباريخ البصرة جاني
الوالي مكتوب يسئل عن جيشه لاي شي يسرحا منا الاعاده
ورددنا لهم جواب اجا قبل هذا ثلاث دفعات هذي الرابعه
يبدل هذا الضابط رشيد جميع لكن ماهم يسيئون واياه
ولا بقى له هيابه عند لكن يصير ومخالف امر خذوته من طرف اخر ويتجاسرون
عليه وهمنا جدا مظهر الصداقه وترجا منا المساعده ورجعنا لهم
منا عد الا بالصداقه ولانه متولع قبله من لسماو مسافة ثلاث ايام
الاجل المحافظ عليه فواغل الي اشتهر لا زاد الجبلله وكفر صار عليهم لاجم
ونقص في هذه السنة ودبر محله الاد غالي فيها والسلام

0010





A/c

Some days prior to this date a letter was received from the Wali of Busreh stating his desire to erect a Telegraph line from Busreh to Koweit and ~~Busreh~~ Alhassa and asked me to safe guard the road and help. I sent them a reply to excuse me, as such a thing could not be done.

He also asked about your visit & I told him that you occassionally call here and go.

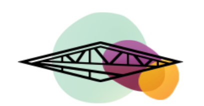
Also the Telegraph Officer Bulkly came from Fao. and on this date a letter was received from the Wali asking for the reason of his visit and wanted information from me, and I replied that he had come on three previous occasions and this one was the fourth for the purpose of change of air

News regarding Bin Rashid is that all the tribes are not on good terms with him and there is no respect on the part of tribes left for him and now



they rob his followers and act boldly against him. He has held out to me full friendship and asked me for help and I will not support him except in friendship. Now he is residing about three days journey to the West of Samah ~~about there~~ for the purpose of guarding the road of the caravan which conveys food to his parts and this year he has experienced great trouble and loss. Foodstuffs are dear in his district.

unsigned.



120

بسم الله تعالى جناب الأفخم حميد الشيم الأخ محمد رحيم المحترم عبد النبي صفر المكرم ادام الله تعالى بقاه

عقب الاشتياق الى تلك الذات الحميدة الصفات والخبر الحمد لله تعالى في احسن حال فلا زلتم ان شاء الله كذالك

وثانياً قبل هذا تقدم منا للجناب كتاب على يد ابن الشيخ محمد [illegible] وذاك جواب كتابكم الذي وردنا

على يده من ابو شهر الأول بان شاء الله وصلكم وانتم ان شاء الله بكمال الصحه والعافيه التامه بحمد الله والآن بالعون

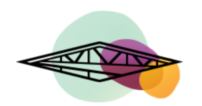
وقد وردنا كتابكم المورخ ٤ شوال المبني صحبة البحرين حمدنا الله تعالى على صحتكم وطيب [illegible] وكلما

ما ذكرتم صار معلومنا والخبر بالكتاب الذي قبل هذا شرحنا عما لزم رفعه بوقته ونرجو الجواب

ان شاء الله منكم عاجلاً على ما يطيب الخاطر والمأمول بعد هذا استمرار اعلام سلامتكم [illegible] لا تقطع عنا حوايجكم

من طرفنا [illegible] لديكم وعندنا الاخوان والاولاد يسلمون عليكم ودمتم سالمين والسلام ٢٣ شوال سنة ١٣١٦

مبارك الصباح



00166



00107 14

6th March 1899.

To

Agha Mohamed Rahim.

A.C.

I sent you a letter previous to this by the son of Sheikh Mohamed Alfaraj, which was the reply to your letter sent by him from Bushire. I trust in God that it has reached you & that you are enjoying full health.

And now your letter dated 15th February has reached me informing me of your arrival at Bahrein and what you stated has been understood.

In the previous letter I wrote what was necessary to represent and I pray of God an early reply from you Please God according to my desires. It is prayed that after this you will ~~repeated~~ always write without omission the information of your good health gladdening the heart ~~Dersont~~

Inform me of what you may want.

I salute him who is most dear to you and ~~my~~ brothers & sons send greetings. Sd. Mubarak AlSubah



Telegram
22. To Resident

Following from Fao begins
"Busreh writes no news of importance. Cannot think what is meant. I am now at Fao. Please let me know my probable movements as soon as possible. Kendall." Ends.
22/3/99. Mungavin

Replied at once to say Lawrence can return to Mohammerah
23/3/99. (I?) M. J. M.



123
122

00108

Telegram to Foreign

Your telegram of the 16th March
The Consul at Busreh informs me
that he has no news of importance,
and I think it is not likely that
the Turks will attempt anything
against Koweit for some time
as the hot weather is beginning +
A Confidential Agent of Mubarak
is expected shortly, & I will send
the agreement by him also
money if the Govt. of India
authorise it. Meade.

23/3/99



Telegram

Fr: Foreign

Your telegram of the 23rd March You may send ratified agreement & money as you propose

Foreign

Recd 24/3/99.





٤٠

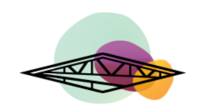
[illegible]

من بحرين ربوت في ٢٩ مارچ ١٨٩٩

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاجل الاحشم الجناب الكرنل ميد بالبيوز وقونسل جنرال

بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العليه لازلتم في خير وعافيه ودُم في
دام مجده آمين
ابرك الاوقات واشرف الساعات تشرفنا بكتابكم السامي لسنة ٧٨ المورخ في ١٣ ذي القعده سنة ١٣١٦
مطابق في ٢٥ مارچ ١٨٩٩ سنه وما عرفتم فصار النصح ابنتم الانتظار للربوت الثاني من مجلسكم لاجل
وصول الجواب من سعادتكم في سيل الثاني فلا يخفاكم في ١٦ ذي القعده ١٣١٦ سنة مطابق في ٢٧
مارچ ١٨٩٩ وصلنا كتاب من الصديق المعهود باسم مجلسكم صحبة رجل من طرف صبي عبد اللطيف
بن هارون وبجوفه ورقتين شارحا فيهم المواد الجبيع يعلو كم لقا تلاحظونهم بالصحة وكما فيه
ينبغي لمجلسكم غاية مقصوده يكتب له ارادته اولا قبل ارسال الرجل الامين من طرفه ولعله
وصول ذالك اليه سيرسل الرجل المذكور ولا بود ايضا وصول احال لطرفه قبل ان تصل اليه ارادته
وهذا الاحتياطات منه عن افشاء مواده والامر اليكم والرجل المذكور عبد اللطيف متوقفا
لانتظار جواب كتابه هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم محروسين وكلام مرر في ١٧ ذي القعده سنة ١٣١٦ مطابق في ٢٧ مارچ ١٨٩٩

صحيح [illegible]



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00110

نقل

لرأيتقال حضرة جناب حميد الشيم المفخم الاخ محمد رحيم ابن المرحوم عبد النبي صفر المحترم دام

عقب الافتقاد عن تلك الذات الحميدة الصفات والخفي الحمد لله تعالى في احسن حال لا برحتم انشاء الله في كمال الصحة والاعتدال وثانياً با ابرك وقت سعيد اخذت مكاتيبكم المورخاة ٢٢ شوال و٣ القعده تلونا الجميع بغاية الافراح حيث انبئتنا عن غالي سلامتكم التي هيا عندنا راس المطالب وكلما ذكرتم با الجميع صار معلومنا فلا اعدمنا الله تعالى وجود ذاتكم وعما ذكرتم من الاستقامة والاستعداد لنا فهذا عندنا شي معلوم ومشهود من القديم اولاً واخراً فالله تعالى لا اخلينا من تفضلكم على الابد فنسأل الذي خصكم بذلك التوفيق ان يوفقنا واياكم لاحسن طريق وانه يا اعيد نا لشكوركم فنا ذبر ونسأله تعالى انه يجزيكم عنا افضل الجزا اننا كما يعلم الخالق غايه من الجناب محفوظين شاكرين افضالكم غلا اعدمكم الله المائة في الجميلة الاثر هذا واني الاحل الاستعداد اعلام سلامتكم السارة على الدوام لا تقطع عنا معا يلزم تعرفونا به وتكم المنه ونبلغ سلامنا الاولاد وعنا الاخوانه والاولاد يسلمونه وحكم ساكنه والسلام

١٢ ذلقعده ١٣١٦

مبارك الصباح





No 40
29th March

From Residency Agent Bahrein

To Resident

A.C. I have received your letter 78 of 25 March and I have understood what you wrote. You mentioned the awaiting of a further report from me and that a communication will be received by me by the following Mail.

Let it be known to you that on the 27th March I received a letter from the known friend, by a person named Abdulatif bin Harun, and enclosed therein were two papers in which are stated all the matters

It appears to me that his ideas are that prior to his sending a trustworthy person on his behalf he should receive a communication regarding what he desires and after the receipt of the same he will send the said person and that he does not desire any one to reach him before he obtains his desires and these precautions on his behalf are to guard against the publicity of the matter

The said person Abdullatif is waiting for a reply to his (Mubarak's) letter.

Sgd Moh.d Rahim Saffar

JCM
15/iv/99





126

24th March 99.

From Sheikh Mobarek Alsubah

To Agha Mohamed Rahim

A.C.

I have received your letters in the most blessed hour, dated 22nd Shawal & 3rd Zil Kada I read them with the utmost joy as they referred to your good health which with me is principle matter and what you wrote is understood by me.

With reference to your remarks that I should uphold and preserve (the agreement), this matter is understood and known to me from the beginning to the end. May God Almighty never discontinue your devotion to me. &c &c.

~~Dasset~~ I trust you will always write of your good health and do not discontinue the information & honour me with what may be required.

Convey my greetings to the sons & on our part I & ~~the~~ brothers & sons send greetings.

(Sgd) Mobarek bin Subah

JCG
15/4/99



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اخي متعنا الله تعالى ببقاكم

ان عبدالله البراهيم السمله مثلما عرفناكم مسافر له عدة ايام قبل وصول الخطار يوم كم

والافاده الذي الحبونه الطلاع عنا عليها نأمل الحرروه لنا بكتابه

نطلع عليها قبل حظور كم فيها لاجل حتى اجبتكم منا الجواب

Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsamahdh as I formerly informed you, had gone on a journey some time before the receipt of your letters. I trust you will write in a letter the news you desire me to know so that I may know the same before your coming to this side and you may receive a reply from me.

JCG 15/4 99



١٣١٦

بالله تعالى   اخي دمت محروساً بعناية الوهابيه

يا محب العزيز الطلعة على اليمن صلاة الذي داخل كتابكم المورخ ٢٢ شوال
وذكرتم من طرف مواد المعهوده واستكمال الامر بموافقة الاخوان وحصول الاطمئنان
وانت تذكرونا ان الجناب وجناب الكبير التزموا لنا في وقت الذي كنتم عندنا
واوعدتم بطيبة الخاطر على الاراده وانه ليس غفلتم وانه يسوف ياتينا الجواب انشاء الله
تعالى ما يسرنا ويسر خاطر الاخوان وثم بعد هذا وصلنا كتابكم المورخ ٣ القعده
وذكرتم ان المواد صارت على الاراده وتطلبون عبد الله ابراهيم لسمعكم فلا نزجكم
صار معلومنا خلاف عن هنا وجه دكم ولا اخلانا الله من شفقتكم
فعبد الله ابراهيم المذكور قبل وصول كتابكم لنا ليس حاظر بطرفنا بل هو مسافر
فيا محب ذكرتم استكمال الامر بموافقة الاخوان والاتفاق مثلما ذكرتم لاكن ان
الاخوان لا يكونون منهم ذلك الا الله ان يكون الامر كما عرفناك اولاً وكما اخذنا لك
تشفاهاً بجنابكم الاول والاخر وعرفت انكم بيننا تشترطون الان يا محب ما اشفق
مع حب للمحبي حتا نعرفه الغايه ونطلع على مع حب تعريفكم انه الامور صارت على الاراده
وانا الله تعالى يلايم لنا بقاكم يا اخي ما حبيت هاالمسلك في حاجه ام محاذر عن الله
بل محب لذالك الطرفه الحسب بسبب لكم وحميتكم واني رجل مستقيم الحق لسبب
احب هكذا فعلاً مع حب مودتي استحقت المرافقة بالشروط الموافقة لطرفين وللعواقب
واطمئنان الاخوان حيث لا يكونون منهم موافقة الا الله ان يكون املاكنا الذي في
البصرة مع الطوارف تكون الحق الحمايه وبعد رجع ذكر ذلك بالاوراق وبالامر
الذي يكون بيدي لاني استحق المباراة على حسب محبتي لكم والا انا ما جاني
من ذلك الجهه مطر قطعاً للان يا خذ وخاطري بزياده وايضاً انا يشبعني
اقليم نا فعني



A.C.

I have read the enclosures in your letters of 22nd Showal and you referred to the known matters and the settlement of the affair with the consent of the brothers and obtaining confidence and you reminded me that you & the Great One (i.e Resident) limited to me when you where here and promised satisfaction, and that you have not been unmindful and that which will give pleasure to me & the brothers will reach me. After the same I received your letter dated 3rd Zil Kada and you mentioned that the affairs have turned out as desired and you asked for Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsamaneh and all you wrote has been noted.

The said Abdullah was not here on the receipt of your letters but had gone on a journey. You mentioned the settlement of the matter with the consent of the brothers and their union; but the brothers will not do so unless matters are concluded as I originally told you and according to what I verbally informed you on your first and second visit.

You mentioned that possibly shortly you will honour me (with a visit). My friend I do not see just now a reason for coming untill I understand the result and know that the affairs are according to the desire as stated in your letter

I did not enter into this affair



out of necessity ~~of~~ or fear of anyone but because I love them on account of their good principles and protection I am person who admires good principles and love the same and according to my friendship I ~~[illegible]~~ deserve to be met in conditions which are agreeable to both sides and the future and the ~~gain the~~ satisfaction of the brothers, as they will not agree unless that the ~~British~~ properties ~~which~~ at Busreh & its vicinity ~~come~~ under protection and the same be mentioned in the agreements and document in my possession as I deserve consideration on account of my regard for them. I have not experienced any trouble from the other party (Turks) as they now ~~they~~ desire me greatly & I am followed by a useful people.

JCG
15/4/99



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00115

No. 66 of 1899

Bahrein 9th April 99.

From Residency Agent Bahrein

To Resident

C/o.

In continuation of my letter ~~dat~~ No 40 of 29th March in which was enclosed a letter received from the Friend to me together with ~~the~~ its two enclosures in which is stated his wishes, I beg to state that I impressed upon him to send to me the person whom I named to him to send and the person whom I pointed out to him came himself to me on the 7th April and he is trusted and depended upon by him (Mobarek) and his name is Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsanaah and he brought with him a letter to me with an enclosure in which the matter is ~~stated~~ referred to and giving the news that has reached him regarding Bin Rashid.

The said Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsanaah is here awaiting to receive your communication.

(sgd) Mohd Rahim Safar

JCM
15/4/99





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00116

بقم

الله تعالى   بجناب المكرم الأجل الأفخم الأخ محمد رحيم ابن المرحوم عبد لسيني صفى الحرم دام

غب لاثتياق عن تلك الذاة الجميلة الصفات والخير الحمد الله تعالى في احسن حال ادام الله تعالى لكم ذالك وثانياً اخي قبل هذا سبق للجناب ذريعة الوداد بيد عبد اللطيف ابن محمد سعيد الهارون وعرفنا بها عن اللزم نرجوه الأمل بالله وصلت اليكم وانتم ان شاء الله بكمال الصحة ولعافية التام ثم اننا نأمل اعلام سلامتكم لساره لا تنقطع عنا على الدوام مهما لكم تعرفونا به وتبلغ سلامنا الى عن لديكم وعندنا الأخوانه والاولاد يبلغونه وجم سالمين والسلام ٢١ ذالقعده ١٣١٦

مبارك الصباح

2nd Apl 1899

From Sheikh Mobarak AlSubah
To Agha Muhd Rahim
&c.

Prior to this I sent you a letter by Abdullatif bin Mohamed Moaed AlHarun & I wrote therein what was necessary to be stated. I hope it has reached you & please God that you are enjoying the best of health. I moreover trust that you will continue to give me news of your good health with your desires. Give my greetings to those who are most dear to you. I and the sons send greetings.

(Sgd) Mobarak AlSubah

JCG
15/4/99





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وفق

نفيد كم اخبار بن رشيد ابن رشيد احواله مختله جميع لقباير نافرين
ونفيين ونه على طوارفه ويهبونه ادباتي كبيرة وهذه الأيام اجا رشيد
تكاونه مع ابن مجلاد وقع في عنزه وطاح بن رشيد وقتل على
بن رشيد جملة رجال واخذو عليه خيل كثير وانكسر ابن رشيد
وعمار طاويه تردد عندنا مظهر المحبه والصداقه ازايد ومطلب منا
المساعده والحنا ما نساعده بل نحنو رعايانا في لقباير
ما نبقي ظونه طوارفه وكبايني واسه ولي لعلم انه اولاد ينسقم
في حب انه البيانات ما هي زينه عليه في حكم بعد محمد
وهو احود عدابه الجد محل وذهبت ادباشهم وغلا
اسعار واختلال وصار محقور عند لقباير مالي هيبه



133

لا زلتم الاخ دمتم محروساً بالالطاف الربانيه

طلبتك مجي عبد الله الابراهيم لطرفنا وعرفناكم انه بالسفر وجا وصل

لطرفنا وتقدم لطرفكم لاكن يا محب المصلحة الرباط يكون على ما عرفناك

وبغير ما يكون ذلك ما يحصل شي وعبد الله نهايتاً يكون نقال خبر منكم

والاوفق بالكتابه منكم اخير عن ابنيتنا بعض كلام فيا محب

اننا عرفناكم انه مجيئكم قبل انه يتبين الذي صار ما نشوفه

موافق وجوابكم جانا تم عنا خبر العبصلات والمكاتيب المورخات

في ٢٢ شوال وفي ٣ لقعده ١٣١٦ بشرتنا وانستنا انه

الامور اجت على الاراده يعني الجيب ما طلبنا فهم انشفاها

لما كان مجيئكم مع اللبس ولايضاً قبلاً بالكتابات ولايضاً

مواجهتكم عام الماضي الحنا مبسوطين الى نزيد فيا محب انا

ما جيت هالربع محاذر من احد ابداً بل محبه لكم الحسنى

سيرتهم وحسنهم فانتم على حسب محبتي لهم اني ارمهم

طيب الخاطر ولاطمئنانه على جميع ما ابديته وبالم تم الكفايه





134

00118

A/C

You requested that Abdullah bin Ibrahim should go to you. I told you that he was absent but now he has arrived here and now proceeds to your side.

My Friend the promised protection should be according to what I informed you otherwise nothing will come of it.

Abdullah is only to bring me information from you and it is best that the news should be in writing so that he may not forget any portion of the message.

I informed you that I do not consider your coming advisable before what has occurred becomes evident.

You have acted well towards me. The letters dated 22nd Shawal & 3rd Zil Kada you gave me the pleasing news that the affairs ~~have~~ stand as ~~I~~ was wished; agreeable to what I verbally stated when you came with the big personage (i.e. Resident) and also previously in the letters and ~~upon~~ on my meeting you last year I mentioned to you what I wanted.

My Friend I did not approach them ~~bear~~ out of fear of anyone but only ~~for~~ because ~~of~~ my love for them ~~for~~ on account of their good principles and protection. Please God that according to the love I have for them



I will obtain satisfaction from them and a reassurance for all I repeated to you.

You asked me to give you news of Bin Rashid. Bin Rashid's affairs are shaky. All the tribes have withdrawn from him & raid upon his district plunder lots of animals. Lately Bin Rashid fought with Bin Mijlad a section of the Aneyza tribe and they inflicted a loss upon Bin Rashid and killed a number of his men and captured many mares from him and Bin Rashid was beaten. His messengers come to me expressing his great affection and friendliness and he asks me for help and I do not help him but prevent my subject tribes from interfering with him. From what is apparent, but God knows best, his affairs will not live long, as the news does not reflect credit on him in his Government following the government of his uncle whose proceedings were prudent. At Nejd their cattle have gone and the prices have risen and they are insecure in their affairs and he (Bin Rashid) has become despised and the tribes have no regard for him.

Unsigned.

JCG
15/12 99



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00119



نمبر ٤٦

الى ولد الشيخ مبارك بن صباح ... حاكم الكويت

من البحرين ربوت في ١٠ ابريل ١٨٩٩

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاكرم الاحشم الصاحب الكرنل ميد بالوز وقونسل جنرال

دام مجده آمين بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العليه لازلتم في خير وعافيه وقد انتسبه لعراجيه محبكم الشريف المورخه في ١٧ ذي القعده ١٣١٦ سنه مطابق في ٢٩ مارچ ١٨٩٩ سنه الرسول بجوفها كتاب الواصل لمحبكم من الصاحب مع ملفوفه ورقتين المشروحة فيهم جوابه من جهة مطلوبه وارادته فلا يخفى سعادتكم اننا قد اكدنا عليه ان يرسل الشخص الذي عرفناه ان يرسله لطرفنا في ٢٦ ذي القعده ١٣١٦ سنه مطابق في ٧ ابريل ١٨٩٩ سنه وصل الشخص الذي عيناه بنفسه وهو معتمده وامينه عبد الله بن ابراهيم السمكه وفي صحبته كتاب منه لمحبكم مع ورقه بطيه مشروحا فيها ذلك المطلب وايضا اخبار المتصله اليه عن ابن الرشيد تلاحظون الجميع بالصحة والعافيه وعبد الله المذكور حالا في طرفنا متوقف لتحصيل المطلب ليحيط بذلك شريف علمكم ودمتم سالمين ومحروسين وكلام حرره في ٢٨ ذي القعده ١٣١٦ سنه مطابق في ٩ ابريل ١٨٩٩ سنه

[ختم: ... مبارك بن صباح ...]



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00120

Bushire 26 March/99

To the Residency Agent

Bahrein

وکیل بحرین

A.C.

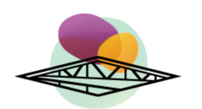
I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your 2 letters reporting ~~that you~~ that you have put yourself in communication with our friend & that you are shortly expecting to meet his agent at Bahrein.

The Resident will be glad to hear from you of his arrival as early as possible.

[illegible] 26/3/99

[illegible]





Read with letter from Secy, Pol & Secret Dt, No 2, dated the 13th Jany. 99

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[This Document is the Property of Her Britannic Majesty's Government.]

00121

Recd 29/3/99

ASIA.

CONFIDENTIAL.

[December 29.]

SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to Foreign Office.—(Received December 29.)

Dear Sir Thomas, *Constantinople, December* 22, 1898.

WITH reference to Sir C. Scott's No. 372 of the 17th November and Sir J. Ardagh's Memorandum of the 29th November on the subject of the "Kapnist" scheme for a railway from Tripoli to Koweit, it may be of interest to record a rumour which has reached Mr. Weakley to the effect that M. de Witte, who had given his consent to the scheme (as, at least, Mr. Meyer stated), had subsequently been informed in Paris that English capital and interest would be predominant, and had, in consequence, withdrawn any support which he might have given it. The news of this change of front has, as Mr. Weakley hears, necessitated a reference to St. Petersburgh, and Russian support is not, as yet, assured to the enterprise.

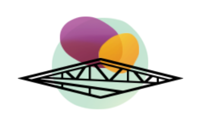
If British capitalists are anxious to invest in railways in Syria, it is strange that the Kapnist scheme should be preferred to that of Mr. Pilling, who has obtained a Concession for a railway from Haifa to Damascus viâ Tiberias, which line has, I believe, been surveyed, and presents, I am told, no great engineering difficulty. Mr. Pilling's line would tap the Hauran, the best grain-producing district in Syria, and Haifa is, without doubt, the best port of that province.

The policy of the Porte appears to be to push the Anatolian Railway towards Mesopotamia, in order that communication with that part of the Empire should lead direct to Constantinople. The German line is bound by its contract, as soon as traffic receipts equal its guarantee, to extend itself towards Diarbekir, and it is not likely that any other line will be permitted to compete. Thus it is probable that if the Kapnist Company commenced operations at the two extremities of the projected route it would not be allowed to complete the connection from sea to sea, with the result that, far from creating a shorter route to India, the Company would end by building a line from the Persian Gulf northwards, which Russia would utilize when the line through Western Persia is completed.

I have referred to only a few of the many reasons which seem to me to make it undesirable for the Foreign Office to give any kind of support to Mr. Meyer and his associates in the Kapnist scheme.

Yours very truly,
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[1726 *n*—1]





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00122

ASIA. [January 4.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Co. to Foreign Office.—(*Received January* 4.)

6, *Tokenhouse Yard, and Stock Exchange, London, January* 4, 1899.

Dear Sir,

REFERRING to the conversation which our Mr. Meyers had the honour to have with you yesterday, we are pleased to forward you Mr. Pears' letter *re* Iradé*, and should feel obliged if you would kindly return it to us after having placed it before Lord Salisbury for perusal.

With regard to the point touched by you as to whether, in the event of his Concession being obtained, our contract with Count Kapnist would be found to be sufficiently binding to safeguard us against any attempt that might be made to transfer the Concession to other parties not approved of by Her Majesty's Government or ourselves, we take the liberty to quote from a confidential Report handed to us a few ago, on his return from Constantinople, by a gentleman in our office, who had been watching our interests out there. He says:—

"Mr. Pears sent word to us asking how matters were progressing, and on our paying him a visit, he informed us that Sir Nicholas O'Conor had called on him soon after Mr. Meyers' departure to make inquiries about our matter, and that since he had twice sent Mr. Weakley, the Embassy's Commercial Attaché, on the same mission. Pears told us that Sir Nicholas was particularly concerned to know whether, in the case of this Concession being granted by the Sultan to Count Kapnist, our contract with the latter was binding enough to prevent him from transferring the Concession to any body not suitable to us. We meant to set his Excellency's mind at rest on that point, and, after an interview with Count Kapnist, got him to write a letter to E. Rechnitzer, declaring himself to be acting in this matter merely as E. Rechnitzer's and his financial group's agent, and binding himself to have E. Rechnitzer's name inserted in the Convention, besides his own, as part concessionnaire. This letter was signed by Count Kapnist at Mr. Pears' office, in the latter's presence, and officially acknowledged receipt of by E. Rechnitzer in a return letter to the Count. Furthermore, Count Kapnist was made to write a letter to Mahmoud Djellalledin Pasha, the Minister of Public Works, after the latter had been communicated with, practically repeating what had been stated in the Count's letter to E. Rechnitzer, and duly testified copies of these letters having been prepared by Mr. Pears, they were taken up to the Embassy and handed to Sir Nicholas O'Conor."

We may add that we have known Mr. Rechnitzer for a long time, and that he is the gentleman who orignially brought this Concession business to us.

We have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAMS, MEYERS, AND Co.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Mr. E. Pears to Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Co.

10, *Rue Mertebany, Constantinople, December* 27, 1898.

Dear Sirs,

HEREWITH I inclose copy, certified by me, of the letter from the Ministry of Public Works. I congratulate you on obtaining it. I confess, as I told your Mr. Meyers when he was here, that I doubted very much whether your representatives would have sufficient influence to obtain the document, and I say even that I am surprised at their success. At the same time, as I informed your Mr. Meyers, such a document does not give any legal right to obtain the Concession which has been asked for in Count Kapnist's name.

* Also his certified copy of the Iradé (for perusal and return).

[1706 *b*—1]



The Imperial Iradé invites Count Kapnist to attend at the Ministry to establish the bases of the Concession that he asks for, and I think it may be fairly presumed that in granting such an Iradé there is no objection in principle to the Concession asked for, the particulars of which are more fully described in the Petition of Count Kapnist, and that, if the bases can be agreed upon, a definite Concession for the line may reasonably be expected to be forthcoming.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) EDWIN PEARS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

The Minister of Public Works to Count Kapnist.

M. le Comte Kapnist, *Constantinople, le* 12 (24) *Décembre,* 1898.

VOUS êtes invité par Iradé Impérial à vous présenter à ce Ministère à l'effet d'établir les bases de la Concession que vous sollicitez du Gouvernement Impérial.

Par ordre du Ministre:
Le Directeur du Bureau des Archives et d'Expédition du Ministère,
(Signé) RHEUTER.

(Seal of the Minister of Public Works.)

I certify the above to be a true copy of the original in my possession.
(Signed) EDWIN PEARS, *Barrister-at-Law.*

Constantinople, December 27, 1898.



Asia 123 January 16th 139
Confidential. No. 2. Section 1. 09124

Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.
(No: 7) (Received January 16th)

St. Petersburgh, January 10th, 1899.

My Lord,

With reference to my despatch No: 372 of the 17th November and to Count Kapnist's negotiations for a Concession to construct a railway between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, I have the honour to report that I received a letter about ten days ago from a M. Rechnitzer, informing me that he had arrived at St. Petersburgh, in company with Count Kapnist, in order to try and interest Russian financiers in this undertaking; and that having been informed that I had been made acquainted by the Foreign Office with the interest taken by the eminent British firm of Messrs. Meyers and Williams in these negotiations, he would be happy to call at the Embassy and give me the latest information respecting their progress.

I requested Mr. Hardinge to reply for me to M. Rechnitzer's letter, and to see that gentleman when he called at the Embassy.

I now inclose a Memorandum which Mr. Hardinge has been good enough to draw up





up for me of his conversation with M. Rechnitzer, and of the interesting information which he obtained from him concerning Count Kapnist's project.

I am naturally unable to express an opinion as to how far the information given by this gentleman, who is unknown to me, can be regarded as entirely reliable; but I believe he is quite correct in surmising that Count Kapnist will not secure much financial support for his scheme in this country, and I am inclined to doubt his obtaining much official encouragement here to pursue it.

I have, etc,
Sd. Charles S. Scott.

Inclosure in No: 2.
Memorandum.
(Confidential.)

In accordance with your Excellency's instructions I arranged for an interview this morning with M. Rechnitzer, who called at the Embassy to see me.

In reply to my inquiry as to the progress at Constantinople of the negotiations to obtain a Concession in the name of Count Kapnist for the construction of a railway between





between the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, he confirmed the information that the Sultan's Iradé had been already obtained, but that the Firman was still awaited. He added that he had just received a telegram informing him that the Minister of Public Works had given the mazbata or order for the preparation of the requisite Convention. He explained to me at some length that, although the Russian Embassy at Constantinople were pressing the Porte for this Concession, the Russian Ambassador was taking no steps in the matter, M. Maximof, Dragoman of the Embassy being the chief element of activity in favour of the scheme. He said that the Russian Embassy regarded the proposed main line as an English line, being quite aware that it would be impossible to raise the necessary funds from private sources in Russia in order to secure half the representation on the Board as stipulated for by Count Kapnist. They would, however, be satisfied if the line were constructed with English capital and under English control, provided that satisfaction was given to Russian amour-propre by a very small percentage of Russian representation upon the Board of Directors, and that compensation was given them by the

exclusively





exclusively Russian management and control of the branch line from Kanikin on the Persian frontier to Nedjef viâ Bagdad.

He further stated that M. Tatistcheff, whose influence is very great with M. Witte and General Kouropatkine, is opposed to the scheme, but that he is in favour of the junction of the Russian and Indian Railway systems by a railway across Afghanistan, and that he had secured the moral support of the "Times" and the "Morning Post" in favour of this project. M. de Witte, on the other hand, was said to be an advocate of a railway from the Caspian to the Persian Gulf, as soon as the Russo-Persian Railway Convention had expired in 1900.

The Concession for which application has been made is to include Concessions for navigation and irrigation in the basins of the Tigris and Euphrates, and the Concession for irrigation, if obtained, would prove their most valuable asset since, according to Turkish law, half the land reclaimed to cultivation becomes the free-hold of the concessionnaires. On my pointing out that Messrs Lynch already enjoyed certain navigation rights upon the Tigris, M. Rechnitzer stated that Messrs: Lynch's

Convention





Convention had originally been solely for the navigation of the Euphrates, but that it had already lapsed ten years ago. I told him that I had my doubts as to correctness of his facts in connection with this point.

M. Rechnitzer further showed me copies authenticated by Mr Pears, a lawyer of Constantinople, of two secret documents addressed by Count Kapnist to M. Rechnitzer, in which he stated that he handed over absolutely to M. Rechnitzer all rights and privileges accruing to him from the Concession, and that the name of M. Rechnitzer would be inserted in the Convention with the Turkish Government. He said that he held these documents in reserve in case he should not be able to obtain in Russia the financial support that he had hoped for, but of which he appeared to be very doubtful.

He was in negotiation with the Banque Internationale de Saint Petersbourg, but so far had received very little encouragement. He added that he had received proposals from Messrs Bleichröder of Berlin to participate in the Concession.

Endeavours had been made to conciliate to all parties enjoying influence in St. Petersburgh, and the favour of M. Pobedonostzeff had





had been secured by the promise of the building of a Russian Church at Korna, the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates, and the supposed site of the Garden of Eden.

M. Rechnitzer promised to give me, in a few days' time, any further information that he might be able to obtain

As regards the idea of compensation being given to Russia, in the event of the construction of this railway as an English undertaking assuming a tangible form by the exclusively Russian management and control of a branch line from Kanikin to Nedjef, I venture to point out that such a Concession would be most injurious to British interests as it would place under Russian control the very important trade route from Bagdad to Northern Persia viâ Kermanshah, over which road, I believe, three-quarters of the merchandize carried to be British goods imported from the Persian Gulf, while the control of the principal route of the annual pilgrimage from Persia to Kerbela and Nedjef would greatly enhance Russian prestige and influence in Persia and elsewhere.

December 30th, 1898. C. H.





145

00150

Received with letter from Secretary, Poll. & Secret Deptt., No: 1, dated the 6th Jany 1899.
Enclosures in F. O. covering letter of 29th December 1898.

Messrs. Williams Meyers & Co, to Foreign Office.

6 Token house Yard. &
Stock Exchange. E.C.
27th December 1898.

Sir,

Re: proposed railway Tripoli - Koweit.

Referring to our letter on this subject of the 25th October last, we have the honour to inform you that we have just received a cable message from our legal adviser in Constantinople, Mr Edwin Pears, who is well known to the British Embassy in that city, announcing that the Iradé has been issued in the form.×

We hold ourselves entirely at your disposal for any further information that you may desire, either by personal interview or by letter, and one of our partners will be glad if you wish it to do himself the honour of calling upon you at the Foreign Office at any hour and on any day that may suit your convenience.

We have, etc,
Sd. Williams Meyers & Co.

×Stipulated by our Mr Meyers when in Constantinople.

Telegram





146
001

Telegram to Sir N. O'Conor, dated 29th December 1898.

No: 240.

Kapnist concession. We hear from Williams Meyer & Company that Iradé has been issued. Is this true!

Enclosure in F.O. covering letter of 31st December 1898.

No: 234. Telegram from Sir N. O'Conor Df. 30th Decr. 1898

Your telegram No: 240. Iradé was issued on December 24th. I am informed confidentially that provisions guarantee British ownership in favour of W. Meyer & Co. Secrecy is maintained, iradé has not been shown to me and I am sceptical as to British hold over scheme and would like arrangement to be submitted to H. M. Govt: by the firm who have obtained a letter of introduction.

Received with letter from Secy: Poll: & Secret Dept. No: 4 dated the 27th January 1899.
Enclosure in F.O. covering letter of 7th Jany 1899.

Sir N. R. O'Conor to the F.O.
Dated Pera, 6th January 1899.

No: 1

Telegraphic





147
00132

Telegraphic.

My telegram No. 234. I am informed that Kapinski Iradé merely authorises Minister of Public Works to examine proposal.

Confidential No. 407 E.A.

A copy of the foregoing correspondence is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 114 E.A, dated the 24th January 1899.

By order, etc,

S F Bayley

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign Department,
Fort William;
The 14th March 1899.

Asia Confidential Prints, section 1, dated the 29th December 1898, and 4th and 16th Jany: 1899.

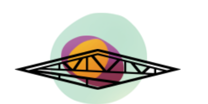
From Messrs: Williams Meyers & Co. to the Foreign Office, dated the 27th December 1898.

Telegram to Sir N.R. O'Conor, No: 240, dated the 29th December 1898.

Telegram from Sir N.R. O'Conor No. 234, dated the 30th December 1898.

Telegram from Sir N. R. O'Conor, No. 1 dated the 6th January 1899.





148
00133

Register & file
vide Koweit
Wahers - [illegible]
14/4

Confidential

No. 498 E.A.

FROM

THE Deputy SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
in the Foreign Department,

To

The Political Resident
in the Persian Gulf

Dated Fort William, the 25th March, 1899.

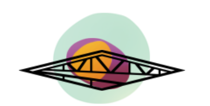
SIR,

I am directed to refer to your telegram, dated the 23rd March 1899, regarding Koweit affairs.

2. In order to prevent any misapprehension, I am to explain that the instructions issued to you in the telegram from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, dated the 16th March ~~last~~ 1899, should be understood as requesting immediate informa-

-tion

RP

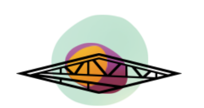


information if at any time hereafter Mr Wratislaw has news of any probable movement of Turkish troops towards Koweit.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most Obedient Servant

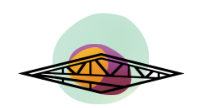
H. Daly.

Deputy Secretary to the
Government of India



149

00134



Telegram

To Foreign

Hamdi Pasha who was Wali Busreh 2 years ago & supported nephews against Mobarak has been reappointed and, it is rumoured, intends to send a battalion to Fao shortly
17.4.99. (Sd.) M. J. M.

Office Copy

150
00135

Bushire
18th April 1899

My dear Wratislaw

I received your letter by last mail & heard also from McDouall & from the clerk at Fao to the effect that it is supposed the appointment of Hamdi Pasha means some attack being soon made on Koweit.

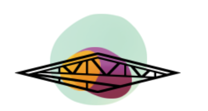
There are persistent rumours to the effect that a considerable increase will soon be made to the Fao garrison. This would be serious as the date-gardens of the Koweit Sheikhs are there, & the Pasha will probably seize them even if he does not attack Koweit itself at once.

Anyhow Fao is much nearer Koweit than Busreh is, & I have thought it safer to send the information on to Govt; but I would like something definite, & will await your

further reports with anxiety. Govt wants the earliest possible news of any moves likely to result in an attack on Koweit, & you had better report to the Ambassador as well as informing me immediately you are certain that any such movement is really contemplated.

Yours sincerely
(Sd) M. J. Meade.

P.S. I am glad to hear that the Pasha is well disposed to the English, & you may perhaps be able to gain such a personal influence over him as will be beneficial to our interests. The longer we can keep the K. question from becoming acute the better.



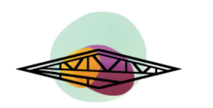
151
00136

Secret. To Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit.

a/c.

I was glad to receive a message fr you through Agha Md. Raheem Suffer. H.E. the Viceroy of India has countersigned the agreement we concluded together when I visited Kowiet, & I send herewith one copy for you.

I duly represented the difficulty you are in about yr. Gardens near Fao, & the Govt. have now authorised me to hold out a hope to you, & to your brothers that the Great Govt. will do what it can to protect you & your brothers in the matter of your Estates



near Fao - If these estates are therefore
attached please inform me -
I am also authorised to hand over
a Sum of Rs 15.000/- to you, &
will be glad to send it in any way
most convenient to yourself -
It is desirable at present to keep
these matters secret: but I will be
glad to hear from time to time
of your welfare if you can
communicate with me without its being
known - Rest assured that you have
[illegible] the favour of the Great Govt and
be perfectly loyal to the engagement
you have entered into - While you are
you may depend on the favour of the



152

00137

Secret Govt.

[illegible]

20/4

E.a
Please prepare the arabic Translation of this letter, & have it faired. It is to go under flying seal to the Resy agent at Bahrein to be delivered to the S Koweit shaikh's Agent. [illegible] 20/4 99

F.A.
I return the letter to the Sheikh of Koweit duly translated, with a faired copy for Resident's signature





153

00138



من كرنيل ميد باليوز وقنسل جنرال الدولة البهية القيصرية والمتكلم في خليج فارس

الى جناب الامير الافخم الاكرم محبنا المفخم الشيخ مبارك بن صباح حاكم الكويت المحروس سلمه ربه

بعد السلام وسؤال الحال عن خاطركم نعرف جنابكم انه

قد سرنا بتحصيل مقالة منكم بتوسط جناب الاغا محمد رحيم

ابن عبد النبي صفر حضرة الافخم الوالجاه فرمانفرما وزير الهند قد صحح المقاولة

التي نحن احكمناها نحن وجنابكم معاً حين مجيئنا الى الكويت وارسلنا

اليكم مع هذا الكتاب نسخة منها ونحن ابدينا المصاحبة التي تمت

فيها من جهة تمسككم بطرف الاتفاق والدولة البهية البريطانية العظمى قد اعطاني رخصة

ان نعطيكم التأمين لجنابكم ولاخوانكم ايضا والدولة البهية البريطانية العظمى

تعمل بالذي يمكن لحمايتكم وحماية اخوانكم من جميع املاككم في طول وقت الاتفاق

فيما كانت تلك الاملاك يوقع عليها التحجير يكون نحرزها بعد قد حصل

لنا الاجازة ايضا ان نسلم الى جنابكم مبلغ خمسة عشر الف روبية سكة

ونحن مسرورين ان نوصله الى جنابكم باي طريق يكون انسب واسهل لكم وهذه

المواد يستلزم ان تكون مستورة ونحن خاطرنا ان نسمع دائماً اخباركم

السارة فاذا امكن لجنابكم تخابرونا بوجه لا يؤول الى الافشاء ويكون

طيب خاطركم ان مرحمة الدولة البهية الانكليزية حاصلة لجنابكم ويكون جنابكم كمال الصداقة

في معاهدتنا التي دخلتم فيها وما دام جنابكم على هذه الصفة تعتمدون

تعتمدون على مراحم الدولة البهية البريطانية العظمى هذا ما لزم ودمتم سالمين

تحريراً ٢٠ شهر محرم الحرام ١٣١٦



154

00139

Confidential
No 117 of 1899.
23 April 1899.

(Translation)

To Agha Mohd. Rahim, Safar
Residency Agent
Bahrein.

A/C

I enclose under flying seal a letter addressed to my friend which, after perusal, carefully seal & send to him through the trustworthy person who is now awaiting at Bahrein to receive it.

2. I propose sending the "Lawrence" over to Bahrein in a few days & she can take the money we have agreed to give to our friend.

3. Please ascertain from him if this will suit &, if not, ask him to let me know in what other way he wishes it (the money) to be sent to him.

4. You should report when the trustworthy messenger leaves with the letter

(Sd) Meade





155

00140

Telegram I.E.T.D. Dt. 21.4.99
fr. Bulkley.

Khazal returned some days ago says re Ibn Rashid's attack. He attacked bedouin tribe & looted them. Loss both sides thirty killed. Bedouins later attacked Ibn Rashid & completely routed him & killed seven of Ibn Rashid's men. He (Ibn R^d.) has returned to Nejd. Name of Bedouin tribe Mutier (?). When Khazal was at Koweit, he met an influential Sheikh who had come from Bahrein & said that he had been informed that British flag would be hoisted Koweit shortly. While Khazal was there, he saw no gunboats but tells me he has heard a man of war is there now, supposed to be British but can't say for certain, may be that German cruiser that came up some weeks ago. Hope to get definite news re this boat this afternoon.

Russian that I told you about who was at Koweit when I was there had left but returned after going interior & that Mobarak had given the men in Koweit orders they were have nothing to do with him as he was spy. This Khazal heard while there. The Russian seems have



put Mobarak's back up & there are reasons for above orders about no one have anything to do with him.

Unsigned



156

Draft for approval

Confidential 00141

No 49 of 1899

Bushire 24th April 1899

To

The Secretary to the Govt of India
Foreign Dept
Simla

Sir, In continuation of my secret telegram of the 17th inst I have the honour to report for the information of the Government of India, that H.B.M's Vice Consul Mohammerah has written to inform me that ~~writes under date the 12th Instant~~ that it is rumoured ~~that~~ "the Turks "are sending a tabur "of Soldiers to Fao fort "and that they have "designs against Koweit. He also says that



"That Abdul Aziz
"of Jebel Shammar
"was near Koweit lately
"but has departed".

I have &c

M J M

Resident &c

W.H.
23/4/99



Secret

157

00142

No: 51 of 1899.

British Residency & Consulate-General,

Bushire, 30th April 1899.

From

Lieut-Colonel M.J.Meade

Political Resident, Persian Gulf,

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,

Foreign Department,

Simla.

Sir,

I have the honour to ~~forward~~ report, for the information of the Government of India, that I have sent one of the copies of the Agreement made with the Sheikh of Koweit, received with your letter No:257 E/A, dated 16th February 1899, to Sheikh Mubarik, through our Agent at Bahrein, to which place the Sheikh sent a Confidential servant to receive it.

2. I have, at the same time, as authorised in your telegram of the 20th February, held out a hope to the Sheikh that the British Government will do what it can to protect him and his brothers in the matter of their Estates near Fao.

3.



3. The Sheikh has further been informed that the Rupees 15,000 agreed on, will be sent to him by the way most convenient to himself. I have informed him that I think the money had better be sent to Bahrein in the R.I.M.S. "Lawrence" when she goes to Bombay, at the end of May, for annual repairs, and handed over to his Agent at that place. The "Lawrence" will be taking specie to Bombay, and the money for Koweit, can be shipped, along with the rest, without exciting notice. Unless, therefore, some other, and better, means of payment, is proposed by the Sheikh, I will send it, as stated above, by the "Lawrence".

4. The Turks appear to have some knowledge of our recent negociations with the Sheikh of Koweit, and it is rumoured that they are sending a small Force to Fao, for objects connected with the former place. I telegraphed this information to you on the 17th instant and the further reports I have since received tend to confirm the news.

5. The present time of year is not favourable to movements of troops in these regions, and it is unlikely that an expedition against Koweit itself can be undertaken before the autumn. It is, however, also unlikely that

Sheikh



Sheikh Mubarak will be allowed to get his date harvest from his Estates near Fao, unmolested, and the question of the assistance which H.M's Government are prepared to afford the Sheikh, and his brothers, in respect to those properties, may soon require settlement.

6. I venture therefore to recommend that, as soon as I report that an increase of the Turkish Force at Fao, has actually been carried out, H.M's Government may be urged to direct our Ambassador at Constantinople, to enquire what the object of the movement is, and should inform the Porte that we will not permit an attack to be made on Koweit.

7. The question will then become one for diplomatic discussion between the two Governments, and will probably be capable of an early settlement. An understanding, I should imagine, may be arrived at with Turkey, by which the independence of the Sheikhs of Koweit, will be guaranteed, and by which any actual rupture with the Turks will be avoided.

8. The recognition of Mubarik El Subah as Sheikh, and ruler of Koweit, would of course have to be one of the conditions, and he would be ~~held to the conditions~~ obliged to carry out the terms of the agreement he has made with us. His rights to a share of the

Fao



Fao estates, would also require to be placed on a satisfactory footing, and, at the same time, the claims of his nephews can be taken up, and a suitable provision for them can, no doubt, be settled, if the division of the ancestral property is submitted to arbitration.

9. It seems very desirable that some definite settlement of the Koweit question, should be arrived at during the coming summer, during which, although it will be difficult for the Turks to take any active measures against the place, it will also be inconvenient for us to keep our men of war in the Persian Gulf. Any collision between the Turks and ourselves, would, of course, be most undesirable, and would much increase the difficulties there are in the way of a satisfactory arrangement.

10. If an understanding can be arrived at with Turkey before the autumn, the necessity for maintaining a stronger Naval Force than usual, at this end of the Persian Gulf, will no longer exist: but if the matter is still unsettled a few months hence, it will be desirable to have at least 2 gunboats in readiness to go to Koweit if the Turks intend to attack it. I have &c

(sd) Meade

intend



159

OC144

Copy

No: 21.

Bussorah

April 22. 1899

Sir,

1 It appears not improbable that the reappointment of Hamdi Pasha to the post of Vali of Bussorah may have some effect on the position of Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit. 2 It was during Hamdi Pasha's first tenure of this post that Mubarek had his brother, Mohamed Pasha the then Sheikh, murdered and seized

His Excellency
The Right Honorable
Sir N. R. O'Conor G.C.B.
Constantinople



seized the vacant office. 3. His nephews Saoud and Sabah appealed to the Sultan for redress and for the restitution of the landed property which should have come to them but which had been appropriated by Mubarek.

4 At first it appeared likely that their petition might be taken into consideration, as it was strongly supported by the Vali who urged on the Porte the convenience of the occasion for an effective occupation of Koweit by Turkish troops.

Mubarek

5. Mubarek, however, spent money lavishly in enlisting on his side the Mushir of Baghdad and other high Officials, whose influence at Constantinople finally prevailed and Mubarek was eventually — at the end of 1897 — recognised as Sheikh and appointed Kaimakam (Sub-Governor) of Koweit by the Sultan.

6. Besides Hamdi Pasha, the chief supporters of the nephews are Sheikh Yusuf Ibrahim of Dora,

their



their maternal uncle, Sheikh Jasim of Katr, and to a less extent Sheikh Abdul Aziz of Shammer. The first-named went so far as to make an armed attack on Koweit in June 1897, which was not however pushed home, and Jassim has several times threatened the same thing. 7 Sheikh Yusuf Ibrahim was obliged to leave the country in order to avoid the consequences of his breach of the peace, but he is endeavouring to procure the pardon of the Sultan.

Since



Since Hamdi was reappointed, the nephews have come into Bussorah from Zobeir where they previously resided, and they will doubtless push their claims with renewed activity now that they can reckon on the sympathies of the Governor General.

About 12 miles off.

The interview which the Resident at Bushire had in January last with Mubarek has aroused the suspicions of the Turkish authorities and rendered them very anxious regarding the intentions



intentions of Great Britain in that direction. Having lost confidence in Mubarek, their sense of justice may be tardily awakened and may lead them to think of righting his injured nephews, who on their side are not likely to shrink from any conditions which may be imposed on them.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. C. Wratislaw

H.M.'s Consul
Bussorah



162

00162

Confidential

This letter seems to have gone to Tehran by mistake. The delay in delivery is not however of much importance. It can be filed.

26/7

HC
Put in its proper place in the Koweit file.
26/7/99

No. 547 - E.A.

A copy of the foregoing print is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No: 407. E.A. dated the 14th March 1899.

By order, &c.,

S H Bayley

Assistant Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 10th April 1899.

Asia Confidential Print, section 1, dated the 23rd January 1899.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 516 F. D.—6-8-98.—1,000.





163a

00148

ASIA. [January 23.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 18, 1899.

I HAVE noticed in the blue print, Asia, Confidential, No. 11, section 1, of the 4th January, a letter from Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Company to the Foreign Office, which contains some misstatements which it may be as well to correct at once. They are made, I believe, by a Mr. Hahn, Clerk of Williams and Meyers, who is looking after their interests here.

It is not true that I called on Mr. Pears to make inquiries as to the Kapnist negotiations, or that Mr. Weakley called on my behalf with similar purpose. It is also untrue that testified or in fact any copies of letters from Count Kapnist to the Minister of Public Works and M. Rechnitzer were taken to the Embassy and handed to me.

These misstatements are important, as showing that the information given to the Foreign Office by Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Company is not reliable. I would at the same time draw particular attention to the statement that Count Kapnist remains "part concessionnaire" with M. Rechnitzer, and that this will give him at any time the opportunity of making difficulties for the Company should their action not be in conformity either with his own views, or, what is still more important, with those of his Government.

I have little to add to the remarks which I have already made in regard to this concession in my despatches Nos. 525 and 585 of the 6th October and 8th November and in my letter to Sir T. Sanderson of the 22nd December, and I still consider that the scheme is one which British financiers of high standing should not be encouraged to support until they have arranged to eliminate Count Kapnist's name from the concession which they are seeking.

I understand that Mr. Williams is shortly expected here in connection with this business, and that it is bruited abroad that he has the support of Messrs. Rothschild and Company. For my own guidance, I should be glad to ascertain what truth there is in this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

[1706 *k*—1]





163b

00149

No 58 of 1899.

To Foreign

Dd. Bushire 7th May

Sir,

In cont:n of my letter no: 51 dd. 30/4/99 I have the h: to forward for the infm of the G. of I a copy of despatch no 21 dd. 22/4/99 received by last mail which Mr Wratislaw, British consul at Busreh has addressed to Sir N. R. O'Connor G.C.B., H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople.

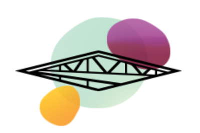
2. It will be seen from this letter that the reappointment of Hamdi Pasha as Wali of Busreh is regarded by Mr Wratislaw as likely to affect the position of Sh: Mobarak of Koweit & I hear that the Pasha may, 'ere long, take up the cause of the nephews against their uncle by encouraging them to obtain poss:n of the Fao estates through the Busreh courts. It is considered likely too that Sheikh Jasim bin Thani of Katr, Yusuf bin Ibrahim of Dora & the Sheikhs of Shammar, will be encouraged to



take some action against Mubarak to whom they are hostile

3. The verdict of the Busreh Court will probably be against Mubarak & in that case the Wali may send troops to Fao to enforce it. If this happens, it will then be necessary for us to be prepared should the Sheikh apply to us for help, as he probably will. I do not think, however, that any action will be taken before the date harvest.

4. An attack, too, on Koweit, by the Sheikhs I have mentioned is possible &, if pressed home, w^d^ give rise to a state of things there which might afford an excuse to the Turks for active interference. If they intervened successfully, it would mean an occupation of Koweit (by them) from which it w^d^ be difficult, later on, to expel them & I think, therefore, that we should not only be prepared to effectually forbid an attack on K. but should also, as recommended in my previous letter, commence diplomatic action with the Turkish



Govt. &, if possible, come to an understanding with the Porte regarding the Status of the rulers of K.

5. I was not aware of the recognition by the Porte of Sh: Mobarak referred to by Mr Wratislaw, or that he had been given the title of Kaim Mokam. It will, however, be seen from my telegram of the 10th Sept 97 to you & from the corres.ce forwarded to me under cover of your End.t No: 1444 E/a d/. 13 Sep: 1897, that previous Sheikhs appear to have received such recognition which has not, I gather, been considered as materially affecting their independence at Koweit itself.

6. As regards the Status of the present Sheikh, there is no doubt that he endeavoured, after the death of his brother, to obtain the recognition of the Sultan & his overtures to us in 1897 were probably due to the fact that his nephews had obtained the support of the local Turkish authorities at Busreh. Had we then been in a position to at once offer him our protection, he would, I believe, have had no further dealings with the Turks: but, at



that time, H. M's Govt. were not disposed to bring K. under Brit. Protection or to interfere with its affairs more than was necessary for the general peace of the Persian Gulf. The Sheikh's advances were not responded to & he seems, in consequence, to have endeavoured to strengthen his position by spending money freely at Constantinople.

7. It is possible that he has, as stated by Mr Wratislaw, accepted the Title of Kaim makam from the Turkish Govt. but, my assistant, Mr Gaskin, informs me that the Sheikh told him when we went to K. in Jan.y that, though he had been offered the title, he had not accepted it. The Sheikh said nothing to me on the subject, & appeared to think that he was quite free to enter into an Engagement with us. I do not recollect Mr Gaskin mentioning the matter at the time & he appears to have thought that it was only said to enhance the Sheikh's own importance in the negociations he was carrying on with us. I think now, however, that the offer of the Post of Kaim



Makam, & the recognition by the Porte, whether accepted or not by Mobarak, had a good deal to say to the insistence of his brothers as to the terms of the protection we were to offer them. They had, no doubt, spent considerable sums in obtaining something from the Turks, & were reluctant to endanger it, until they knew for certain what we would & could do for them.

8. It would certainly have been more satisfactory, if we c^d have come to an arrangement about K. in 1897, before the Sheikh was offered Turkish recognition; but I am of opinion that neither he, nor his predecessors have considered that any recognition or title bestowed by the Sultan affected their independent position at K: itself, & that the title of Kaim Makam, when accepted, has been chiefly regarded as referring to their estates in Turkey, the possession of which is undoubtedly a source of weakness to them, as they are liable to be constantly harassed in regard to these properties



by Turkish officials. They consider probably that the title of Kaim Mokam gives them an official position in return & enables them to meet official attacks. Sheikh Mobarak was well aware that, whatever recognition he might have received from the Sultan, would be of little avail if it suited the Turks to support his nephews against him, & he, himself, welcomed the opportunity of obtaining our support. There is no doubt, too, that ~~he~~ whatever may have been done to reassure the Sheikh by offering him recognition & a Title, the Turks have, for some time, been waiting for a favorable opportunity to interfere actively in K: affairs, with the object of completely absorbing it into the Turkish empire. This would be the ulterior object of their interference, whatever side they take.

9. The questions arising out of the relations of the Sh: of K: with ourselves & with the Turks will have to be settled



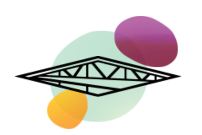
between the two Govts but I may mention certain points which seem to deserve attention. We have, in the first place, never admitted the rights of Turkey over K: & have now an agreement with the present Ruler, to whom we have promised our good offices. We can always make it extremely difficult for the Turks to attack the place itself but, to resist such an attack, would mean a rupture with Turkey & involve serious consequences which H. M.'s Govt would no doubt wish to avoid.

Our interests in the Persian Gulf, however, make it well nigh impossible that we should allow the Turks or any other Power, or its subjects, to obtain a foothold at K: which may become the Eastern terminus of a R.Y on the shortest route to India. Our interests in the Its natural advantages, & good harbour, are all such that it will affect us seriously, if it ever passes into other hands & we should be prepared to sacrifice much before we relinquish our interest in the place.

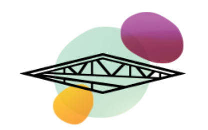


On the other hand, however, it cannot be denied that the Turks have, for some time, regarded K: as lying within their sphere of influence & that its Sheikhs, much of whose property is in Turkey, have, to some extent, admitted that influence. The Turks have never exercised sovereign rights at, or extended their authority to, K: nor have they ever had an effective occupation of it; but they do occupy, with our tacit consent, places further down the Arab coast.

10. While then we are justified in maintaining the independence of K: & in endeavouring to establish our own influence, we must, I think, be prepared for much opposition from Turkey & may have some difficulty in coming to terms with her. I have ventured, therefore, to recommend that negociations with the Porte should not be delayed & I think that, while they are pending, we should keep at least one gunboat ready, at this end of the Gulf, to stop any attempt by the Turkish authorities at Busreh, to send a force by sea. The Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf should receive



definite instructions as to the steps to be taken, under certain circs: but this may have already been done by H. E. the Naval C. in C.
Great care will be necessary, as it will not be possible to interfere with the movements of Turkish troops until sufficient proof is forthcoming what their real destination is, even after a Force has left the Shat el Arab, it may be asserted that it is on its way to El-Katr or some other place on the Arab coast. It is very desirable that an attack on Koweit should be prevented but, at the same time, any premature collision, which could not be fully justified afterwards, ought to be avoided. I do not anticipate any movement being made for some time to come, but the interests involved are considerable & it is best to be prepared for all eventualities. One gunboat, the Lapwing, is now in the Shat-el-Arab & should, I think, be kept there or at Bushire for the present.



11. It would also perhaps be advisable to have a secret News Agent at K: on a small salary of Rs 50 per mensem to keep us informed of anything going on there

I have &c

(Sd) Meade.



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Copy.

Bussorah

No: 23.

May 3. 1899

Sir,

With reference to my Despatch No: 21 of the 22nd Ultimo, I have the honour to report that Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit has recently imposed an import duty of 5 o/o ad valorem on all goods arriving in his country. Hitherto merchandise ~~im~~ imported into Koweit from Bussorah or other Turkish ports was exempted from

H. E. Sir N. R. O'Conor G.C.B.

" " "

Constantinople



from such duty on presentation of a certificate from a Turkish Custom House, but the Sheikh now declines to recognise these certificates and claims duty on all imports whatever be their origin.

I learn that the Mudir of the Bussorah Custom House has complained to the Vali of this proceeding on the part of the Sheikh. Hamdi Pasha in reply begged the Mudir to let the question be for the moment

and



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and allow him time to get settled in his new post and make himself acquainted with all the circumstances of the case.

I have &c.

(Signed) A. C. Wratislaw





Confidential

Foreign No 62 d/14th May/99

Sir

In continuation of my letter No 58 d/ 7th May 99 ~~regarding~~ about Koweit affairs I have the honor to forward for the infor of the Govt of India a copy of another letter noted on the margin fr. the Consul at Busrah to our Ambassador at Constantinople, wh. Mr. Wratislaw has ~~forwarded~~ sent to me.

No. 23, dated 3rd May 1899

2. I will endeavour to ascertain the facts of the imposition of an import duty by Sheikh Mubarak of Koweit, & will report again when I ~~have~~ have obtained full information on the subject. The Sheikh told me that he intended to



introduce a regular Customs Dept: but I am
not aware that he ~~tak~~ proposed taking
any steps ~~fr~~ in that direction for some
time to come, & his putting on an import
B. ~~his present action~~ duty against Turkish
Ports may precipitate some action
against him on the part of the Turkish
authorities, who are reported by the Comr of the Lawrence ~~by the Comr of the Lawrence~~ engaged in increasing
the accommodation at Fao Fort. It is
difficult to get very accurate information
as to what is going on at that place
but Lt Comr Kendall says he could
see fr. the ship that there were several
Tents pitched near the Fort, & work of
some sort was ~~going on~~ in progress.
3. The Sheikh of Mohammerah who is closely
connected with Sheikh Mubarak told
Lt Comr Lambert of H.M.S Sphinx




when he was up the river a few days ago that it was reported among the Turks & Arabs that Sheikh Mubarak had applied to the British for protection: but it was not known what answer he had received - Sheikh Khazal tried to find out fr. Comr. Lambert, who could not give him any information - The Sheikh said that the Turks wd. probably endeavour to ruin Mubarak: but wd. not try to attack him themselves - He thought they were endeavouring to incite various other Arab Sheikhs, & particularly the powerful Sheikh of Nejd, to attack Kowait, & that troubles ~~would~~ may be fomented in this way ere long, wh. wd. give the Turks an excuse for interfering.

4. It is further stated that the Turks are not at present in a position to make any movement as they are occupied in



putting down an insurrection which has ~~broken~~ broken out somewhere up the river between Busreh & Bagdad. If this news is correct it is not likely that ~~any active measures~~ an expedition against Koweit will be ~~taken~~ undertaken for some time to come.

[signature]
13/5



H.C.
Register & then put in file. Wm 15/5

Confidential

172

Registered 00157

No. 631 E.A.

File. Wm 15/5

FROM

THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
in the Foreign Department,

To

The Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf

Dated Simla, the 29th April 1899.

SIR,

With reference to the correspondence ending with your telegram of the 19th February 1899, regarding the secret agreement with the Sheikh of Koweit, I am directed to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the action taken by you in the matter.

2. The Secretary of State for India has observed that inasmuch as you were instructed to conclude an agreement similar to that which exists with the Sultan of Mascat, you were not



directly authorised to stipulate that the Sheikh should not receive representatives from any Power or Government without the previous sanction of the British Government. Nevertheless as the proviso has been introduced, Her Majesty's Government have decided that it shall remain in force. But I am to point out to you that its operation more especially with regard to the relations of the Sheikh with the Turkish Government will require to be very carefully watched. Should circumstances arise or appear likely to arise in which the stipulation itself may be called in question, I am to request that a report may be promptly made to the Government of India whose instructions should be awaited before any action is taken.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obdt servant,

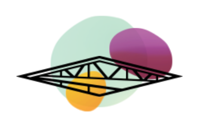
H S Barnes

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India.



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00158



173

نمبر ٥٦

الدولة البهية القيصرية [illegible] خليج فارس [illegible]

من البحرين [illegible] ١١ شهر مي ١٨٩٩ سنه

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاكرم الافخم الصاحب الكرنل ميد باليوز وقنسل جنرال

بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العلية لا زلتم في خير وعافية ودم دام مجدكم آمين
في ابرك الاوقات واشرف الساعات تشرفنا بكتابكم السامي لنمرة ١١٧ المؤرخ في ١٢ شهر الحجة
١٣١٦ سنه مطابق في ٢٣ ابريل مع ملفوفه كتاب سعادتكم باسم الصديق المعهود مفتوحًا
امرتم من بعد اطلاعنا عليه في غاية الاحتياط نختمه ونرسله اليه صحبة الرجل
الامين الذي من طرفه حاضرًا في البحرين منتظر لتحصيله ومراد حضرتكم اننا نستفسر
منه من جهة الدراهم الذي اوعدتوه لها باي وسيله يكون وصولها اليه فلا يخفاكم
ان الرجل المذكور هو عبد الله بن ابراهيم السمكه لما طال به الانتظار كان له لوازم كليه
ولا يمكنه التاخير زياده ولاكنه سوف يرجع سريعًا وبحكم كتبت للصديق واخبرته بذلك
واكدت عليه ان يرجعه بوجه السرعه في ٢٢ الحجة ١٣١٦ سنه مطابق في ٣ شهر مي سنه ١٨٩٩
المذكور رجع للبحرين وفي صحبته كتاب من الصديق باسم حضرتكم وبجوفه ورقه فيها بعض شروحات
طلبها جناب عالي الجاه نايب الاول بريدو صاحب سلمناها اليه مع الكتاب المذكور
ومن جهة الاستفسار منه من طرف الدراهم في ١٤ الحجة ١٣١٦ سنه مطابق في ٢٥ ابريل سنه ١٨٩٩
عرفناه بان يعرفنا باي وسيله يناسب له وصولها اليه ونحن في انتظار جوابه ومع
وصوله سوف نعرض به لمسامعكم الكريمه هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم سالمين ومحروسين
والسلام حرر في ١ محرم ١٣١٧ سنه مطابق في ١١ مي ١٨٩٩ سنه صح محمد رحيم بن عبد النبي صفر

حالا عبد الله بن ابراهيم السمكه ابن الصديق متوجه سلمنا بيده كتاب من حضرتكم بجوفه كتاب سعادتكم
صح محمد رحيم بن عبد النبي صفر



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No 56

00159

Bahrein 11th May 1899

From Bahrein Agent
To Resident.

A.C.

In the most blessed hour I received your letter dated 23rd April 99 enclosing a letter from you to the known friend under flying seal.

You instructed me that after perusal I should seal it carefully and send it to him by the trustworthy person sent by him, who is waiting in Bahrein to receive it. You also desired me to enquire from him in what manner the money you promised him should be sent to him.

Let it be known to you that the said person (i.e. messenger) is Abdullah bin Ibrahim Alsamaka and ~~when~~ finding the delay prolonged, as he had many matters to attend to, he could not wait any longer but he intended to return. On the 3rd May he returned to Bahrein bringing a



letter with him from the friend to my address, with an enclosure in which some matters are mentioned. Capt: Prideaux First Asst: Resident asked for ~~them~~ it & I handed ~~them~~ it to him with the said letter.

With reference to asking him about the money, I, on the 25th April, wrote to him to inform me of the most convenient means to him, by which the money can be sent to him. ~~When~~ I am waiting for a reply which I will forward to you when received.

J.C.

14/6/99



175

00160

لاجل اطلاع سعادتكم

نعرفكم من جهة الكتاب الذي من حظرتكم لجناب الصديق لم يكن في صدره مكتوبا اسم جنابكم
بالعربي كجاري العاده كذالك لم يكن فيه تاريخ الانكليزي بكتابة العربي ايضا لم يكن فيه مهر
كذالك الكتاب نمره فقط مع وصول عالي الجاه النايب الاول بريدو عرضناه عليه
وامرنا بان نعرفه عليه من سعادتكم وامتثلنا امره وجنابه لابد يخبركم عن ذالك والسلام
محبكم محمد رحيم [illegible]

For Resident's information

I beg to inform you with reference to your letter to the friend, that your name was not written at the bottom of the letter in Arabic, as customary. Likewise the English date was not given in Arabic nor ~~was~~ did it bear a seal. Also it was not numbered.

On the arrival of Captain Prideaux I informed him of the foregoing & he instructed me to inform you of it. No doubt he will mention it to you.

(Sgd) Mohd. Rahim

JCG
14/5/99.





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نقل

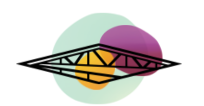
لـه تعالى جناب الأفخم بهي الشيم الأخ محمد رحيم ابن المرحوم عبد الغني صفر المحترم دام

عقب الافتقاد عن عزيز خاطركم العاطر والمزاج الكريم الباهر والخفي بحمد الله تعالى في احسن حال لازلتم لاتالما
وثانياً اخي ما يتملكم المؤرخة ٢٥ القعدة و٤ الحجه بيد عبدالله البراهيم وصلت الينا
وتلونا الجميع وحصل لنا غاية الفرح بسلامتكم التي هي عندنا اعلى المطالب فنسئل عالم الخفيات ان يديمها
وانه لا يخليها من وجودكم ذكرتم انه توقف اعني الحمد لله والمنة اهل البنا
على ما تحبونه وتسرونكم من كل جانب وربنا يديم لنا ولكم التوفيق المسبب لخير دولتهم
والمأمول على الله واحد انه لا تقاطعونا اخبار سلامتكم السارة مع ما يلزم من غرضنا وتبلغ كلم
وان لدينا وصنا الاخوان والاولاد يسلمون ودمتم سالمين والسلام

١٦ ذي الحجه ١٣١٦

مبارك الصباح





00162 177

27th April 99.

From Mobarik bin Sabah
Sheikh of Koweit

To. Agha Muhammed Rahim
Bahrein

A.C.

Your letters dated the 6th & 18th April sent with Abdullah bin Ibrahim have reached me. I read with joy your letters referring to your good health which is the most important of all matters.

I pray God will give you long life and will not deprive us of your presence.

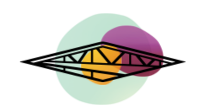
You enquired after my health. Thank God my condition is as you would wish it to be. May God through His mercy give you and me eternal prosperity. It is hoped you will not discontinue giving news of your welfare. Command me with what may be needful.

Greet those most dear to you. The brothers and sons send you greetings.

Sgd Mobarik Alsabah

JCM
17/5/99





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يا محب عبد الله الأعظم بحسب ان الرجال قد وجهنا للاقرا وعنده
الفقرا منا واعلمنا ونا الكلي بابه تم بشفقة الرجال علينا ووقوع
الضارة وايضا جنابكم الطلعة بالذي عندنا وطالبنا وهيا سهله
على الرجال ولا حاجة لتكرارها تعريفنا لسابقه كافي وبابه وتم بهم اللفايد
عرفتم عن النبي باشا يتوجه للاستانه وجاي مكانه حمدي باشا مثلما ذكرتم
حمدي باشا وصل والي على جاري عادته وحيا دائما لا محسبا عادته لحالة طيبة
هذه الصاحب لنا وصاحب جد الرجال انشاء الله ما نبالي فيهم نعرفهم الحمد
انشاء الله منهم رتبه عرفتم لذكرتم اخبار بن رشيد ابن رشيد اموره
مع العشاير ماهي متفقة معه كل [illegible] قايمين عليه ويطلبون بالاطراف
وهو في كل رجب الى [illegible] بالبر والماء [illegible] عليه كيتين من [illegible]
والله اعلم انه لو خيفة ما هو [illegible] حالع





179

00164

My beloved.

I have sent back Abdulla bin Ibrahim agreeable to that Man's orders. He has my instructions. My full reliance is in God and then in the kindness and consideration of the Person.

You are aware of my wants and desires and they are easy matters for the Man. There is no necessity for repeating them. My former representations are sufficient. Efficiency is with God & you.

You wrote that Aunis Pasha is leaving for Constantinople and Hamdi Pasha has relieved him. Hamdi Pasha ~~has~~, as you stated, has come as Wali as customary. It is apparent to me, he is treating my subjects well. Please God through the presence of the Man I shall not mind them (i.e. Turks). I know, please God, their partridge is all feathers. (i.e the Turks' are unreliable).

You desired me to give you news of Bin Rashid. His affairs with the tribes are not prosperous. They are ~~all~~ up against him on all sides and raid his district. He is in the desert since the month of Rajab & is experiencing great trouble. God knows that his not prosperous.

JCG 1/5/99.



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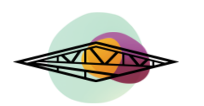
00165

This extract has been received on the 22. Zel Haja 1316 / 3rd May 1899 from Shaikh Mobarak enclosed in his letter d/16 Z Haja 1316 / 27 April 1899

I have sent back Abdulla Bin Ibrahim according to that man's order & he has our full instruction, & our great reliance first is with God & second with that man's kindness, also yours. You are aware of our object & intention which are very simple with that man and it is not necessary to repeat it; & whatever mentioned in my previous letter is quite enough.-

You have made inquiry about the departure of Aniss Pasha who proceeded to Constantinople & Hamdi Pasha" has been appointed in his place, "so it is all true. Hamdi Pasha arrived & he is now a Vali as usual, & treats my people very well, as I see. But I depend on that man's favour & do not care for them. "They could not obtain the Camel, neither its wool.-

You have asked me to inform you about Bin Rashid. He has no rest in these days as the tribes are giving him trouble & plundering his people. He is in

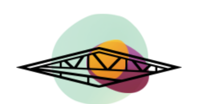






in "Bariya" since the month of Rajeb last. He finds himself in difficulty in many ways. & he has no food [illegible] at all. —





182

00167

ملحاق كتابنا نمره ٥٦ المورخ في ١ محرم سنه ١٣١٦ مطابق ١١ مي سنه ١٨٩٩

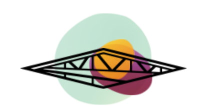
بعد ختم كتابنا المذكور وصلنا كتاب من الصديق وبجوفه ورقه علىحاله هم جميعاً وامليى لحضرتكم لفاً نالاحظون الجميع بالصحة والعافية ودمتم سالمين ومحروسين والسلام
محمد رحيم ابن عبد [illegible]

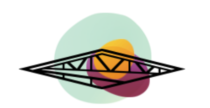
P. S. to letter No. 56 dated 11th May.

After writing my letter above quoted I received a letter from the friend, with an enclosure therein. They are ~~they~~ forward herewith.

Sgd. Mohd. Rahim

JCW
14/5/99.





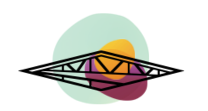
183

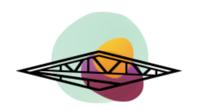
بقا

لله تعالى   حضرة جناب الأفخم حميد الشيم الأخ محمد رحيم ابن المرحوم عبد النبي صفر المحترم دام

بعد الاشتياق عن عزيز ذاتكم الحال العاطل والمزاج اللهم الباهر والحمد لله تعالى في احسن حال
وثانياً اخطر بابوكم وقت تسعيد الخدمة كتابكم المؤرخ ١٤ الحجة ١٣١٦ تلونا وحصل بغاية سلامتكم
وسلامة ذاتكم الذي لتنتي هياواسى كل وطب ولمنا ذكرتم به صار معلومنا فلا عدمناكم فبكل حال تفقدتم
المعهوده اليه ربنا لا نخليها منكم وعلى الدوام لا تقطع اخبار سلامتكم الا ان عارفتم تعرفونا به
يسلم عليكم العزيز لديكم ومنا الاخوان والاولاد يسلمون وحكم سالمين والسلام ٢٠ ذي الحجة ١٣١٦

مبارك الصباح





184
00169

My brother

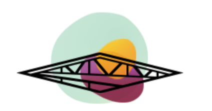
May you continue in the security of God and may you be rewarded with the highest recompense.

I have read the enclosure you referred to Abdulla Ibrahim. When he returned here I reprimanded him for not obeying you and I ordered him to return. The Southerly wind is the cause of his detention otherwise I would not permitted his remaining a day here without going back.

You state that what my brothers & I desired from the Great Person has been granted and that the orders of the Govt: have reached you and you are waiting the return of Abdulla bin Ibrahim to hand them over to him for bringing to me. You have not failed. I am obliged to the Great Person. Such is the nature of Kings. Please God those who supplicate Him and Them are well guided and gainers.

You mention that money agreed upon will be sent to you and you enquire of me whether you should send it by Abdallah Bin Ibrahim or another. It should remain with you so that Abdullah may come to me (and not be delayed). A letter will reach you regarding the said money.

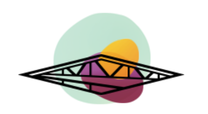
JCG
17/5/99.



From Mobarik of Koweit
to Agha Md. Rahim
d/. 6th May 1899

Acknowledges receipt of letter d/. 26th April

(Sd) J. C. G.
17/5/99.



188 9

Mr. H

Please number these 2 letters & put them with the Kowait file.

~~Send to F.O.~~

Yours

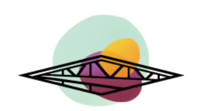
18/5

185

00370

بالله تعالى اخي دعه محروسًا بعناية الوهابيه

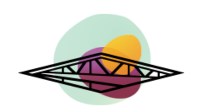
يا محب جنابكم عنا افضل الجزاء انتو قد علي لبعض صلى وذكرتم عن عبد الله
الداهم لما وصل طرفنا انكم لومتونا لعدم امتثال امركم ورجعناه لكم وبسبب
أخذه عندنا صار الحماكوس ولا كانه ما ابقيناه الا يوم ورجع
وعرفتم انه الذي رددناه من الرجال الكبير حصل كلكم كان مطلوب لنا
ولا أخذناه وانه لاوامر وصلة اليكم ومنتظرين عبد الله الداهم تسلموها له
ويجيبها لنا جنابكم ما قصرتم والرجال الكبير لحنا متشكرين له
هكذا شان الملوك فانشاء الله من لاذ بابكم تم بيهم رشد ونفوذ
وعرفتم عن المبلغ المعلوم يصل صاحبكم ولا تجهونا هل تسلم لعبد الله
الداهم او غيره الان المبلغ المعلوم بقي عند جنابكم حنا انه يصل
عبد الله الداهم لطرفنا والجميع منا الشوريف عن المبلغ المذكور ومحبكم سالمه



From Mobarik of Koweit
to Agha Md. Rahim
dd. 6th May 1899

Acknowledges receipt of letter dd. 26th April

(In) J.C.G.
17/5/99



Mr. H.
Please number these 2 letters & put them with the Koweit file at [illegible]
[illegible]
18/5

Confidential

No. 207 of 1899.

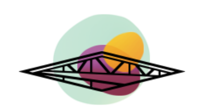
19 May 1899.

The Commander
R.I.M.S. Lawrence

Sir

I have the honour to inform you that in addition to the specie going to Bombay you will receive 3 boxes containing Govt: Rs 15000 to be handed over to the Residency Agent at Bahrein and I request therefore that you will be good enough to receive the same on board and to call on your voyage at Bahrein and deliver the boxes to Agha Moho Rahim, Residency Agent there, taking a receipt in duplicate from him for transmission to this Office

2. The Boxes containing



this money will come on board along with the rest, and will not be noticed: but at Bahrein I hope you will endeavour to get them landed and handed over to the Agent as quietly as you can. It is important that the transaction should if possible be kept secret.

I have &c

M S M

Pol: Resident
P. Gulf.

JCG
18/5/99



188 9
187
00172

Confidential

No 134 1899
19th May 1899.

The Residency Agent
Bahrein

A/c.
I have received your letters brought over by Captain Prideaux, forwarding the communications you have received from our friend and have read their purport
In compliance with our friend's wishes regarding the sum agreed upon I have to inform you that I am sending ~~to~~ you in charge of the Commander of the R I M S Lawrence 3 Boxes containing Rs 15,000. to be dealt with in any manner



you may be instructed by our friend.

On the arrival of the R.I.M.S. Lawrence please arrange to take charge of the said money and remove it from the vessel as secretly as possible without letting any one know as to what it is or for what purpose it is sent to you.

You are to give the Commander of the R.I.M.S. Lawrence a receipt in duplicate for the same & at the same time report to me of its safe arrival and subsequent disposal.

[signature]

Pol. Resident
P. Gulf

[initials] 1/4/99





Confidential
No. 134 of 1899

To Residency Agent
Bahrein

[illegible] ١٣٤
١٨٩٩

١٩ مي ١٨٩٩

وصلنا الخطوط التي جاء بها عالي الجاه قبطان بريدكس صاحب وكان

فيجوفها المرقومات الواصلة اليكم من صديقنا واطلعنا

على مضمونها ولتكميل ارادة صديقنا منظور الصلح العمومي نحن كم

انه قد ارسلنا في يد عالي الجاه كما انه اراده الدولة القيصرية الانكليزية

امثال الذي [illegible] الف [illegible] ١٥٠٠٠ [illegible] نعلمكم

بها باي نوع يصلكم الامر من صديقنا [illegible] الدولة [illegible]

تعلمون الاقدام لتحويل المبلغ المذكور وتسلمها الى [illegible]

ما يمكن من غير ان تعرفوا احدا كان اي شيء ولا اي حاجة

ارسلت اليكم ويكون تعطون الى كان [illegible]

فيصلنا الوصول وكذلك تخبرونا عن سلامة وصول الدراهم

وعن كيفية انجازه هذا ما لزم تحريره في ٩ محرم ١٣١٧



189
00174

Confidential

To Foreign

No: 70 of 1899.

Dy. Bushire
21 May 1899.

Sir,

I have the h: to ack: the receipt of your letter no: 631. E.A. d. 29/4/99. on the subject of the secret agreement recently made with the Sh: of Koweit, &, in doing so, I would explain, for the infmn. of the G. of I. that the clause in the agreement by wh: the Sheikh promises not to receive the representatives of other Powers, without the previous sanction of the Br: Govt., was inserted, as I understood such to be the wish of Sh: Mobarak himself, conveyed to me by my asst. Mr Gaskin, who told me that the Sh: did not want to have agents from other Powers, residing at Koweit & wd. gladly agree to refuse his consent to such arrangements without a refce. to the Br: Govt.

2. As a clause to this effect wd. be useful later on & seemed calculated to strengthen our position at Koweit & as a similar proviso had been



inserted in the agreement of the 22nd Dec: 1880 with Sh: Isa of Bahrein (v. agreement no: XXXI Ait: Treaties Vol: X p. 120) when the Bahrein Sh: agreed to refuse permission to any other Govt than the British to establish Diplomatic or Consular Agencies in his territory, unless with the consent of the Br: Govt, I thought that the opportunity was a good one to obtain a similar promise from Sh: Mobarak, as he himself wished to give it.

3. I do not think the proviso is likely to give rise to any trouble as the Sh: will tell the Turks, if they propose sending an Agent to Koweit, that he would prefer not to have one, & he will, probably be able to prevent the appointment being made without any sort of reference to the stipulation in the agreement with us. In the meantime, your instructions will be carefully attended to, & any information indicating that the Porte, or any other Power, wishes to send an Agent to Koweit, will be communicated to you without delay. No action,



too, will be taken in the matter without your instructions.

4. As Sh: Mobarak wishes the money we agreed to pay him sent viâ Bahrein, it will be taken there by the "Lawrence" which leaves this for B'bay on the 20th instant & will be left, either with the Sheikh's agent or, if he has not yet returned to Bahrein, with the Residency agent, who will, in due course, make it over to the Sh:'s representative. I wd. request your instructions as to how this payment is to be shewn in the accounts of the Bushire Treasury & wd. suggest that it should appear as a secret service payment. The C.I.T had better perhaps be informed that the money was paid under the orders of the G. of I.

5. Mr Macdonall, V.C. at M'rah, informs me that there is no probability of any Turkish movement being made, at present, agt. Koweit & he thinks that the rumours on the subject, which have



been current of late have no real foundation, but merely represent what people expect will happen. "Every one" he writes "believes that the Turks will" "move against Koweit some day".

Nothing tangible, too, is, I believe, known as to the Sh:'s negociations with ourselves: but there seems to be a general impression that he has been endeavouring to obtain our protection & that we have not been averse to receiving his advances.

6. From information I have recently received, I am inclined to think that Sh: Mobarak has not received any formal recognition fr: the Sultan of or the title of "Kaim Mukam" as mentioned in Mr Wratislaw's letter to the Ambassador at Constantinople no 23 d/. 3rd May a copy of wh: accompanied my letter to you no: 62 d/. 14th inst. I am enquiring from Mr Wratislaw how he obtained his information on the subject & will ask him to verify its correctness. I have &c

19/5/99 (Sd) M. J. Meade



00176 191

Urgent

F.A.

Please put up the file - we must by telegraph at once orders as to how we shew payment.

W. L. ... 24/5

No. 52. put up with file to F.A. ...

R. I. M. S. "Lawrence"

Bahrein 22d May 1899

Papers re specie submitted ... 24/5/99

From

The Officer Commanding

R. I. M. S. "Lawrence"

x Receipt in duplicate from Residency Agent Bahrein for 3 cases specie.

Forwarded x to the Political Resident Persian Gulf, in compliance with his No. 207 of 19th May 1899.

C. J. L. Kendall

Lieutenant R.I.M.

Foreign

~~... ...~~

Please instruct me how ~~...~~ the money ~~...~~ sent to Koweit ~~Sheikh Mubarak~~ is to be shewn ~~appear~~ in our ~~...~~ accounts for current month - Resident

24/5



Original

 192

Bahrein
21. May 1899

Received from the Officer Commanding R. I. M. S. "St Lawrence" three cases specie marked M. S. said to contain Rs 15000/- Fifteen thousand only -

MOHAMED RAHIM





193

[illegible]

من البحرين [illegible] شهر مى ١٨٩٩

[illegible]

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاكرم الاحشم الصاحب الكرنل ميد باليوز وقونصل جنرال

دام مجده آمين بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العليه لا زلتم في خير وعافيه وفي ابرك الاوقات واشرف الساعات تشرفت بكتابكم السامي لنمره ١٣٤ المؤرخ في ٩ محرم سنه ١٣١٧ مطابق في ١٩ مي سنه ١٨٩٩ وما عرفتم فقد اتضح مخصوص وصول سعادتكم في مركب اللارنس صحبة عالي الجاه كماندار الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليس ثلاثة صناديق محطوط فيها مبلغ خمسة عشر الف روبيه سكه امرتم ان اعمل اقدام لتحويل المبلغ المذكور ونقلها من المركب باسرع ما يمكن وبعد قبضه الوصول الى الكماندار المذكور فلا يخفا سعادتكم ان الكماندار بنفسه نزل المبلغ المزبور وسلمه بيده بحكم وبنفسه ايضا حرر القبض بكتبة الانكليزي وبحكم صحته ومهرهم وسلمه اليه كذلك امرتم اننا نعمل بالمبلغ المزبور باي نوع يحصل لنا من الصديق فلا باس لابد من يتوجه لذلك الطرف بهذا القرب نعرفه عن وصول ذلك ونستفهم منه المعونة باي نوع يوصل اليه ذلك ونمتثل امره ثم نعرض ذلك لسعادتكم هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم محروسين والسلام حرر في ١٢ محرم سنه ١٣١٧ مطابق في ٢٢ مي سنه ١٨٩٩ [illegible]

No 62. 22nd May 99.

From Residency Agent

To Resident

A.C. I have received your letter No. 134 dated 19th May. What you wrote is understood. Regarding your despatching by the R.I.M.S. Lawrence in charge of the Commander 3 cases containing Rs 15000, you ordered me to arrange



their removal as secrely as possible from the vessel and to give the Commander two receipts for the same.

Let it be known to you that the Commander himself landed the money and wrote the receipts for the same in English which I signed and sealed and returned to him. You also ordered that I am to deal with the money in the manner I may be instructed by the friend. I will write to him about the arrival of the same, by any person who may be going to Koweit, and will ask him in what way he wishes the money should be sent to him and I will obey his wishes and will inform you of the same.

(Sd) Mohd. Rahim Saffar

JCM
24/5/99

MOHAMED RAHIM BIN ... NUBEE SAFAR

Resident

I believe you have wired to Foreign. This can be filed?

[illegible] 25/5/99

File
[illegible] 25/5



Telegram d/. 25. May. 1899.
Fr: Simla
To Bushire

Your tel^m of 24th. The money should be drawn from Treasury on simple receipt giving no detail but quoting merely Foreign Dep^t. office memo: No: 752. E. d/. 25th May to Dept. of Finance

Foreign





Confidential

No. 240 of 1899

Bushire, 30th May 1899

To

H.B.M's Consul
Busreh

Sir

With reference to your letter No. 23 dated the 3rd instant to the address of the Ambassador at Constantinople, I have the honour to request you will kindly let me know how you obtained your information that Sheikh Mobarik has received formal recognition from the Sultan and been given the title of Kaim Makam.

2. I did not know that

formal



—

formal recognition and appointment as Deputy Governor had been carried out as regards Mubarik and as other information I have does not point to it, I shall be obliged if you will kindly verify its correctness as far as you can and let me know the result

I have &c.

[signature]

Resident &c

W.H.
29/5/99



196

60151

Telegram dated 25th May 1899
From Foreign Simla
To Resident
Bushire

Your telegram of 24th The money should be drawn from Treasury on Simple receipt giving no details but quoting merely Foreign Department office memorandum number 752 E.A. dated 25th May to Department of Finance and Commerce.

Confidential

No 227 of 1899
British Residency & Consulate General
Bushire, 25th May 1899

Copy forwarded to the Treasury Officer, Bushire Residency, for information and guidance.

By Order
F.W. Prideaux
First assistant to Resident
Persian Gulf





202
197

00182

Resident
The amount has been debited in our accounts as an advance to the Political Resident and as you have kindly signed the receipt for it there is no need of the copy of the Foreign Dept: telegram regarding the same remaining with me I therefore return it to you.

JCG
1/6 99





Draft for approval

Confidential

No. 82 Of 1899
Bushire 5th June/99

To
The Secretary to the Govt
of India
Foreign Dept
Simla

Sir

With reference to paragraph 4 of my letter No. 70 dated 21st May 1899, I have the honour to report that the money for the Sheikh of Kowit was ~~dully~~ duly taken to Bahrain by the R.I.M.S. "Lawrence" which left this on the 20th ultimo.

2. The Residency Agent Bahrain, Agha Mohamed Rahim, has furnished me with two Receipts for the amount, the duplicate of which is enclosed.

3. As soon as I hear from



from ~~our agent~~ him that
he has actually paid
over the money to the
representative of the
Sheikh of Koweit, I
will intimate the same
to the Government
of India.

4. In the same paragraph
of my above quoted
letter, I asked for
instructions as to how
this payment was to
be shewn in the accounts
of the Bushire Treasury
but being pressed for
time, I telegraphed
for ~~the~~ his instructions on
the 24th May, and on
receiving ~~the~~ your reply
~~the~~ the following day,
the ~~amount~~ transaction was shewn
in



in the accounts of this Residency as directed ~~therein~~ by you.

I have &c

[signature]

Resident

W.H.
5/6/99





200

00185

Confidential

Bussorah

June 2. 1899.

H.C.

Please look up P.P. & note if there is any record of the information contained in this letter having been communicated to us. If not please draft letter to the Consul asking him if the matter mentioned in his conf^l letter of the 2nd June was ever mentioned to this office as no trace of any such report is forthcoming. Also if it was not mentioned to this office was it ever reported to Bagdad or Constantinople?

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No: 240 of the 30^th ultimo requesting me to inform you how I obtained my information that Sheikh Mubarek has received formal recognition from the Sultan and been given the title of Kaimakam, and to state in reply that my information is based on a report of the Dragoman of this Consulate, dated Dec. 8. 1897 and

[illegible]
6/6.

filed

Lieut- Col. M. Meade

Bushire

[initials]



filed in my archives, which is to the following effect; "A telegraphic Communication was received by Mouhsin Pasha (then Acting Vali) four or five days ago from the Sublime Porte stating that an Imperial Iradé had been issued sanctioning the appointment of Sheikh Mubarek el Sabah as Official Kaimakam for Koweit." Further, Mubarek's name is given as Kaimakam of Koweit in the Official Salnamé (almanach) of the Vilayet of Bussorah amongst the other Government functionaries of the



00186 201

Vilayet, his letters from the Turkish Authorities are addressed to him as Kaimakam, and he receives 150 Karas of dates per annum from the Turkish Government in lieu of salary, as did his predecessors.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble servant;
A. C. Wratislaw





202

00187

Confidential

Draft for approval

No. 259 of 1899

Bushire 7th June/99

To

H.B.M's Consul

Busrah

Sir

In acknowledging the receipt of your ~~letter~~ Confidential letter dated the 2nd instant, I have the honour to enquire whether the matter mentioned therein was ever communicated to this office as no trace of any such report is forthcoming. If it was not, was it reported to the Political Resident Bagdad or to Constantinople & was any reference to it ever made subsequently

I have &c

[illegible signature]

H.B.M's Consul Genl
for Fars & Khuzistan

W.A.
6/6/99





203

00188

No. 760 E.A. 738 13/6/99

F.A.
Please see Register &
file with K file -
13/6

FROM

THE Under SECRETARY TO THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
in the Foreign Department,

To The Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf Bushire

Dated Simla, the 26th May 1899.

SIR,

I am directed to forward for your information a copy of the letter cited in the margin, regarding a proposal made by His Excellency the Naval Commander-in-Chief to survey the harbour at Koweit in the Persian Gulf. It was suggested that the R.I.M.S. 'Lawrence' might be employed in making a rough survey of the harbour in

No. 236, dated the 11th May 1899, from the Govt. of India in the Marine Dept. to His Excellency the Naval Commander in Chief, East Indies station.

RI



in the course of which it would have been necessary to erect flags on the surrounding coast, and to lay buoys in the harbour.

2. You should no doubt send the 'Lawrence' to Koweit at intervals, so as to evince the positive interest of the British Government in the place, but not with such frequency or in such a manner as to excite suspicion, and certainly not with the intention of floating buoys or planting flags.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant

J B Wood

Offg. Under Secretary to the Govt. of India.



copy

204

No 236

00189

Navigation
Marine Survey

Government of India
Marine Department.
Simla the 11th May 1899.

To

His Excellency Rear Admiral
A. L. Douglas,
Naval Commander in Chief
East Indies Station.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter N. R.|13, dated 12th March 1899, stating that it appears very desirable that the harbour of Koweit, Persian Gulf, should be surveyed at an early date.

2. In reply, I am to state that in the opinion of the Government of India there are political objections to the proposed survey being undertaken at present.

I have &ca

Sd/ P. J. Maitland
Secy. to the Govt. of India.

True copy
J E D'Silva
Supdt. Foreign Deptt







205

Bussorah.
June 5. 1899

Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 2nd Instant, I have the honour to inform you that since that date I have been furnished by the Vali with a statement of the salaries drawn by the Governors and Sub-governors in this Vilayet, amongst whom the Kaimakam of Koweit is down for piastres 2806 per month, about £300 a year. I presume therefore that the payment in dates has been suppressed.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble servant;
A. C. Wratislaw

Lieut-Col. M. Meade
&c. &c. &c.
The Residency
Bushire.





206

Busorah
00191
June 9. 99

Confidential

Sir,

In reply to the question contained in your letter No: 259 of the 7th Instant, I have the honour to state that I can find no record in my Archives of the fact of Mubarek's recognition by the Sultan as Kaimakam of Koweit having been communicated to the Consulate General at Bushire, or to Baghdad or Constantinople.

Colonel Loch informs me, however, that he was aware of the Sheikh's official

Lieut. Col. M. Meade
&c &c &
Bushire Pf



Official position.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient,
Humble servant;
G. C. Wratislaw



00192 207

Confl

Foreign No 920/19 June/99

Sir

With reference to my 6 ~~May~~ letter No 70 of the 21st May 1899 I have the honor to forward for the infn of the Govt of India Copies of corres which has passed between the Consul at Busreh & myself regarding the recognition of Sheikh Mubarik of Koweit by the Turkish Govt —

2. It will be seen that the matter was not communicated to the Consul Genl at Bagdad or to me though Mr Wratislaw says Col Loch was aware of the Sheikh's position.

MJM
18/6.







Confidential

 208

Resident

Sheikh Abdul Salam the head of the Sunni Community called on me this morning with a view to delivery me a message from Koweit.

He went to Koweit over a month ago and returned to Bushire last Monday in a sailing boat.

First he told me that Sheikh Mobarek asked him to convey his salams to me and then went on to state that Sheikh Mobarek's writer named Abdullah bin Hamad told him to give me his salams confidentially and request me not to forget him and that the Saadoon family of the Muntefik tribes have written to Sheikh Mobarek to the effect that they are tired of Turkish tyranny and wish to join Sheikh Mobarek at Koweit & throw off the Turkish yoke altogether and that Sheikh Mobarek has sent a letter



on the latter subject to you and is sending it through Agha Mohamed Rahim

I were very surprise to learn that Abdullah bin Hamad who is the Sheikh's confidential clerk should have been so indiscreet to mention this to Sheikh Abdul Salam.

I however treated the matter as ordinary news and made enquiries about Busreh and Mohamerah news to throw him off his guard & not to let him think that there was anything.

The first part of Abdullah's message of course means that he would like a present of some sort. We had nothing with suitable at the time when you visited Koweit otherwise I would have mentioned it to you.

As regards the news about the proposals of the Montefik Sheikhs it requires some deliberations.



First, these people have some of the choicest tracts of land in Arabia on the Euphrates river about 150 miles above Busreh. They were conquered by the Turks I believe about 20 years ago and the fathers of the leading Sheikhs subsequently held high offices in the Turkish service and Naser Pasha the principal Sheikh of his time was Wali of Busreh for some time. The Montefik tribes are practically Turkish subjects and pay taxes to Turkey. It would however be better to obtain the history of these people from the Busreh Consulate. The present Sheikhs, also like the Sabah Family, own property on the Shat the Arab and the Tigris and in Busreh itself I believe.

It seems to me peculiar why a people who have fertile lands in their possession should choose to give them up and elect to take



up their abode in a desert like the Koweit district to the detrement to their herds and agricultural pursuits in which they are employed on the banks of the Euphrates.

Sheikh Mobarek is very ambitious and it strikes me that possibly since his understanding with our Government he is attempting to bring about a union of the great Arab tribes under his authority and have a combination strong enough to oppose Turkish encroachments. and if this is the case he must have given these people sufficient reasons to lead them to believe that he has a force at his back which will repel the Turks, so as to induce them to join him.

What puts the above idea into my head is that a little while after Sheikh Mobarek murdering his brothers Colonel Wilson visited Bahrein on one of his tours. Subsequently we



a confidential communication was received from the Foreign Office to the effect that a report had reached the Porte that the British Consul was secretly engaged in forming an Arab principality under the Sheikh of Bahrein, by a union of Koweit and some other district with Bahrein.

It is not unlikely that Sheikh Mobarek at the time being weak, gave out secretly that such a project was in view so as to induce people to support him in his position in the hope of being insured against Turkish interference in Koweit, and then Turks getting to hear of it may have possibly refrained from absorbing Koweit to avoid possible complications with the English Govt.

I may be mistaken to think that the Saadoon family are Turkish subjects. The family referred to may be a branch of the Montefik tribes who are not under control of Turkey



but to come ~~to a~~ to a proper conclusion it would be necessary to clear that point. If however they should be Turkish subjects then it may be concluded that their settling in the Koweit district will be a source of friction between the Turks & Sheikh Mobarek and a menace to the peace of Koweit & if Sheikh Mobarek is wise he will refrain from gathering round him tribes who are vassals of Turkey.

The foregoing views are entirely my own and there may be nothing in them and I submit them for what they are worth, with a hope that they possibly may be of some use.

J.C.G.
16/6 99.



00196 211

Cypher telegram from Foreign, Simla.
23/12 June 1899

To
Resident
Bushire

Your letters Nos 58 and 62 of May 7th and 14th.
It is not considered necessary at present to give any warning to the Porte: but Wratislaw will hint to Hamdi Pasha, when occasion offers, that to attack Koweit would get him into trouble. Please send a confidential message to Sheikh enjoining caution in his language & actions –

Foreign
23/6





212

00197

١٧٨
١٨٩٩

No 74. 17th June
From Residency Agent Bahrein
To Resident

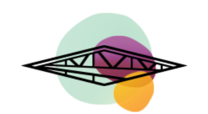
من البحرين ١٧ يوم خلا شهر جون سنة ١٨٩٩

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاكرم الاحشم افخم الكرنل ميد باليوز وقونسل جنرال دولة البهية القيصرية في خليج فارس المعظم

دام مجده آمين بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العليه لازلتم في خير وعافيه ولا يخفى سعادتكم في ٤ شهر صفر سنة ١٣١٧ مطابق ١٣ جون سنة ١٨٩٩ وصل انسان مخصوص من طرف جناب الكريم الشيخ مبارك الصباح وفي صحبته كتاب من جانبه وملفوفه ورقه عليحده باسم محبكم وكتاب منه ايضاً مفتوحاً بجوفه مع ورقه عليحده باسم سعادتكم شارحاً فيها مضمون ارادته ويترجى ذالك من مراحم الدولة البهية القيصريه كما هو ذاكر لاجل اطمئنان خواطر الاخوان وايضاً يستفسر فيها من حضرتكم عن تلك الفقرات الذي هو معرف هل هي تبقى كما هي الان جاريه او تأمرونه بافادات آخره للمناسبه في انظاركم سيعمل حسب امركم والكتب المذكوره مع الاوراق جميعاً بطلوكم لفاً لتلاحظوهم بالصحة والعافيه والرجل الذي من طرفه هو متوقف وننتظر الجواب من سعادتكم هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم سالمين محروسين والسلام حرر في ٦ شهر صفر سنة ١٣١٧ مطابق ١٦ شهر جون سنة ١٨٩٩
محبكم محمد رحيم ابن عبد النبي

&c

On the 13th June a special messenger arrived from Sheikh Mubarak bringing with him a letter with an enclosure to my name. Also therein was enclosed a letter under flying seal to your address in which he has written his objects & prays for the same of the indulgence



of the British Government, as he states, for easing the minds of the brothers.

He also consults you regarding some matters to which he refers, as to whether they should remain as hitherto fore or whether you will instruct him to take steps which may appear politic to you. He will act agreeable to your wishes

The above mentioned letters with their enclosures are sent herewith

The person who came with the letters is waiting to take a reply from you.

(Sd) Mohd. Rahim Saffer

[illegible] 25/4/99



4

ملحقة كتابنا نمبر ٧٤

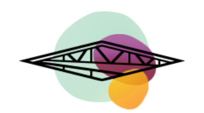
بمنه الى تعريف جناب المفخم الشيخ مبارك الصباح في ورقة الذي هي باسم محبكم من طرف وصوله الى البحرين يحتمل مقصوده اطلاع سعادتكم ومشتمل بانظاركم العاليه والامر امركم ودمتم سالمين حرر في ٨ صفر سنه ١٣١٧ مطابق في ١٧ جون ١٨٩٩

صحيح محمد رحيم ابن عبد النبي صفر

P.S. With reference to the intentions of Sheikh Mobarek mentioned in his note to me regarding his visiting Bahrein, it is evident that he wishes you to know of it and depends on your views.

(sgd) Mohd. Rahim

JCG
25/6/99





4th June 99.

From Sheikh Mobarak
To Residency Agent Bahrein
A.C.

Your letters dated Zil Haj & Moharrem one of which sent with Abdullah bin Ibrahim, have been received. I have read them and was glad to hear of your welfare and all you state is understood. I beg you will excuse the delay in replying as I was away. The Residents letter sent enclosed therein has reached and I thank your best endeavours and the same is due to your excellent disposition and the friendship inherited from our fathers. You have rewarded me with the best recompense

I am obliged and thankful of the clemencies of the great British Government. Please God I will continually receive of them kindness and considerations. On this occasion I enclose my petition to the Resident



which peruse

I trust that the joyful news of your well being together with what may be required will continually reach me.

The Brothers and sons send you greetings.

(Sd) Mobarek
Al Subah



215

لإ جناب الأفخم حميد الشيم الأخ محمد رحيم ابن المرحوم عبد النبي صفر المكرم دام بقاه

عقب الاشتياق عن عزيز ذاتكم الحال المبين بحمد من فضله تعالى بكل خير دام الله تعالى لكم دائما

وتاتيا اخي هلا ببشائر لذيذ المودات ذلك ومن جرى احداث الذي بيد عبد الله الابراهيم

وصلنا الينا وتلونا الجميع حسن وزين في غالي سلامتكم لكني ما رأيت لكل مطلب وجميع ما ذكرتم

صار عندنا اخبارا معلوم واننا نرجو المسامحة عن تأخير الجواب حيث محبكم اشتغل [illegible]

والأخ العالي الذي لفا لكتابكم من حضرة ابا ليوز وصل و نشكر مساعيكم المبارك فدائما

جنى ذاتكم اللطيف وتأييد المحبة الأكيدة من الله جزاكم عنا افضل الجزاء فاني محقق تا

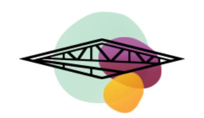
وتشكرا من جهة الدولة البهية لقصده انشاء الله دائما تنال المرام ووفق مع الانظار

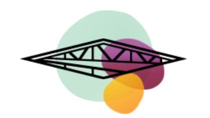
وبهذه الدفعة من طرفنا البالوز لفا ملفوفه نشرح عليه وتقدم هو انشاء الله لحظتكم والمامول

بعد هذا دوام اعلام سلامتكم لسارنا لا تقطع عنا مما يلزم تعرفونا به وهنا الاخوان والاولاد

يسلمون ودمتم سالمين حرر ٢٠ محرم ١٣١٧

مبارك الصباح





216

3

دمتم محروسين بالالطاف الربانية

يا محب جزيتم عنا افضل الجزا العبادة الى انا ذاكرها الا البالبون نوجهكم الحسنها

وتسعون بانفاذ ما ذكرناه من جهة الاملاك لأنه مسحالكم انشاء مبارك

ولكم وصلكم عرضكم من الدراهم حمسة عشر الف روبية وصلتنا الحنا انشاء

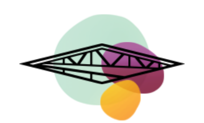
بعد ايام نرسل معكم من طرفنا لكم وعم وصيديا اصل ونقل وملتقب من طرفنا

لقبضها ذاتكم والحنالكم محفظتها وتشكرونه

وما يخفاكم انه وصلنا وقصه في اول الربيع لول الثانى ورد لأخ الشيخ عيسى على حسب

ما بيننا هو من المحبة زيادة على العموميه بعد فهو عندنا لم فضا نعود شاه

بوقوع انظار الدول كعليه لقيصريه الجليل دائما تامه والعم





217

00202

Enclosure to Sheikh Mobarek's letter to Residency Agent

A/c.

My friend you have served me with the best of services.

I beg that you will support the words I have written to the Resident and use your efforts towards the accomplishment of the matter of the properties. You have not failed.

You mention that the Rs 15,000 have reached you. Please God some days hence I will send a trustworthy person on my behalf to you will bring a receipt in duplicate with a letter from me to receive the same. I am obliged and thankful to you.

If I find an opportunity I intend at the beginning of Rabia Awal to visit Sheikh Isa bin Ali on account of the friendship between us which stronger than that of others. That is if an opportunity occurs. I say If God pleases & if approved by the



(British) Government the same will take place, please God.

JCL
25/6/99



Koweit 5th June 99

From Sheikh Mobarek
To Resident
A/C

I received your letter of Zil Hija in the most blest hour and all that it referred to regarding the clemency of the great British Government is understood. Such is your dignity. I inwardly and openly deserve your high consideration.

You stated that it will prove you pleasure to always hear of my welfare. I am thanks God in the best of health and please God I will afforded much joy through your considerations.

You also mentioned that H.E. the Viceroy of India has signed the agreement, and as stated it has reached me. I thank you for your efforts and goodness.

You said it would please you to send the money, the amount of which is known, in the most convenient way to me. I thank



your endeavours and kindness.
The money has reached Agha Mohd Rahim & he informed me of its having reached him, viz Rs 15000 in three cases. Please God, I will send a trustworthy person on my part to the said Agha Mohd Rahim to receive the money and give him a receipt in duplicate.

You remark that these matters should be kept secret. I am keeping (secret) all that has happened as you desired and ordered.

(Sgd) Mobarak Al Subah

JCM
24/6/99

00204 219

Enclosure in Sheikh Mobarek's letter.

The representations of your devoted is that you quote my properties as being at Fao. Fao itself is wholly my property, and not mere properties at Fao. (I have) also other property opposite Mohamerah and the Sofieh on the north of Dewasir and the Ojairawiah & the Kurd which are equal to the whole of Busreh. These are the properties in the Busreh district.

I have confidence in your statements even it be verbal, without being written, but I beg only of your excellent justice, for the reassurance of the brothers, to mention that the Fao property & the other properties at Busreh are under the protection of the Great British Government and that we are under your protection.

I believe that your protection of your subject is complete in regard to their condition, possession & what may befall them. Such a



thing is evident and the mentioning of the same is for the reassurance of those other than myself & I pray of your excellent clemency for its accomplishment.

I would also refer to you regarding the articles taken by the masters of sailing craft, under my signature, for all vessels owned by the people of Koweit. In what form should they be? Also should the flag remain as it is?

The quarantine officer who occasionally calls here and returns to Busreh takes no fees, nor ~~prevents~~ opposes anyone ~~it~~ has no power except that when here he gives vessels going to Busreh certificates that the town is clear of disease similar to the certificate I always issue stating that the town is free from disease and sickness. I write this and await your orders

JCG 24/6/99

220

[illegible] دحتم معقفيف

معروض المخلص انه اوكم العالي ذاالوني فيه ملكي الذي في اطراف الفاو والحالة انه الفاو المذكور
هو جميعه ملكي ما هو اطراف الفاو ايضاً غيره الذي مقابل المحمره والصوفيه الذي الدورق
من شمال و لجيدوبه وقد الآن فقا بلغني نفس مدينة البصرة هذا املاكي الذي بالبصرة
فالمخلص يعتبر قولكم لو باللسان بدون مكاتبه فقط اني استرحم من حسن عدالتكم
اذا يكون او منكم بكتاب على هذا لتفصيل الاجل الاطمئنان لاخوان انه تذكرون ملكم
الفاو وسائر املاككم الذي في البصرة هيا الحق حماية الدولة البهية البريطانية العظمى
واني محسوبكم المخلص يقيناً عندي حيثكم لمحسوبكم تمام على حالة وماله وما يتعلق واليه
هكذا شي ثابت وذكري هذا الأجل الاطمئنان غيري هذا وارجو نفوذ ذلك من حسن واحكم

ايضاً اننا نراجع حضرتكم البهية من خصوصاً القول الذي يكون بيد صاحب السفينة
من امضائي على عموم سفاين اهالي الكويت جميعها باي عبارة تكونوا منا
ايضاً لسنجق هو يبقى على حاله

ايضاً ما عود لقرانتينه الذي يجي لطرفنا ايام ويرجع للبصرة ويعود ولا ياخذ رسم
ولا يمنع احد ولا له تعرض فقط بالاقامة اذا سفينة تتوجه للبصرة يكتب معها انه البلاد صحة
من الامراض فكلامنا بتنا المستقيم دائماً ولكن بتنا المذكور الخبر انه بلادنا سالمة من الامراض
والاوجاع ولا اختلاط هكذا عبارة هنا الخبر منتظر بني اوكم العالي دام الله بقاكم





No 185 of 1899. 221
25th June 1899.
00206

Residency Agent
Bahrein

&c.

I have received your letter No 74 dated the 17th June 1899 together with the enclosures from our friend, forwarded therein.

I send you under flying seal my reply to our friend which after perusal carefully seal and hand over to the person who is waiting to take it.

Please report to me the date of departure of the messenger who takes the letter.

[signature]
Resident





١٨٥
١٨٩٩
لوكيل البحرين آغا محمد رحيم صفر

Office copy

No 185 of 1899 223
25th June 1899

To Residency Agent
Bahrein

١٨٩٩
جون
٢٧

تاريخ ... غيالله نعرفلك كتابك المحرر بمؤرخ

الله

الدولة البهيه الانكليس في خليج فارس دام بقاه

الحمدلله تعالى في احسن حال ادام الله تعالى لكم ذالك
١٣١٧ وكلما اتفق عليه من مراحم الدولة البهيه
شانكم وانه المخلص لكم قلباً وقالباً مستحق
العالي ان تسمعون دائماً اخبارنا السارة
ما مليني زيادة المسرة بوقوع انظاركم
المقاوله مثلما اورتم قد وصلتنا المخلص بشكر
ان تلك نوع مسروريني بارسالها بطريق
الداخم وصلة الأقا محمد رحيم وعرفنا عن وصولها
انشالله نرسل مقتل من طرفنا الى الاقا المشار اليه
ان هذه المواد تكونه مستوده فالمخلص
والحق اورتم ودمتم سالمين ومحروسين

مبارك الصباح

١٣١٧
٢٦ محرم

80800





١٨٥ / ١٨٩٩

لوكيل البحرين آغا محمد رحيم صفر

No 185 of 1899 223

25th June 1899

Office copy

To Residency Agent
Bahrein

١٦ جون ١٨٩٩

بعد السلام والسؤال عن خاطرك نعرفك كتابك المؤرخ

وصل مع ملفوفاته التي من صيقل والمرسول اليك لفا مفتوحاً

جوابنا الى الصديق نقا خيون بعد ملاحظتكم بالله تمهر وتدفع تسلمونه

الى الشخص الذي منتظر لاخذه المراد ان تعملوا ربونا

مرتبة تاريخ رواح هذا الرجل القاصد الذي ياخذ الكتاب

هذا ما لزم في ١٣ شهر صفر سنة ١٣١٧ الموافق ٢٥ جون ١٨٩٩

80800





No. 186 of 1899 274
25th June 1899
00209

Sheikh Mubarak al Subah
Sheikh of Kuwait
&c

I have received your letter dated the 26th of Moharrum 1317 and was glad to hear that you are enjoying good health.

I am communicating ~~the matter regarding~~ what you write about your properties ~~mentioned in your letter~~, to the Great British Govt. and ~~directly~~ when I receive their instructions I will write ~~inform you of their decision~~ again to you.

I am informed that you are imposing a duty of 5 % on all goods entering your



district which is
contrary to your old
established Custom;
also that you intend
harbouring in your
territory some of the
Montefik tribes who
are considered by the
Ottoman Government
as their subjects.
These actions are
likely my friend to
draw the attention of
the Ottoman Govt to
Koweit and may
become the cause of
friction between that
Govt: and yourself
I ~~am~~ wd therefore inform
~~instructed to inform~~
you that for various
good reasons the
Great Govt: who have
the welfare and
independence of your



225

self and Koweit at
heart considers it
most necessary for
you to refrain from
taking using
any actions or language
~~which are~~ likely to
give cause for the
Ottoman Govt: to
interfere in the
affairs of Koweit.

I ~~am~~ wd. ~~to~~ urge impress on
you ~~to~~ that you sd. keep these
communication and
the existence of the
agreement strictly
secret and not to
divulge it until the
moment the Great
British Govt may
consider proper

Give my greetings to your
brothers & sons.

[signature]

Pol: Resident
Persian Gulf

[initials] 25/6/99



British Consulate. Busreh
17/6/99.

My dear Colonel,

I think you can go on your trip to K'chee with a quiet mind so far as Koweit is concerned. The Turks are not likely to do anything rash in that direction yet awhile. Indeed, from what Hamdi Pasha tells me, they would not be disinclined to come to a friendly understanding with us about the place & its future. I have telegraphed & written to the ambassador on this subject, but have no idea what H.E's views are. The only rock ahead is the desire of the Sanitary Board to institute effective Quarantine down the Arab Coast. Their doctor here recd telegraphic instructions the day before yesterday to consult with the Vali & report on the best places for establishing Quarantine Stations, & the two laid their heads together & decided to recommend El Beida, Adjar, Kattif & Koweit! Effective Quarantine at K. would mean soldiers to back it up. I have wired all this to Constantinople

(Sd) A. C. Wratislaw



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No 186 of 1899

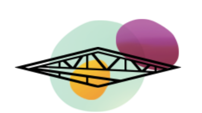
25th June 1899

To Sheikh Moobarek
Sheikh of Koweit

Office copy

نمرة ١٨٦ ٢
١٨٩٩
الى حاكم الكويت الشيخ مبارك آل الصباح

بعد السلام والسؤال عن خاطركم الشريف نعرض لكم ان كتابكم الشريف المؤرخ ٢٠ محرم سنة ١٣١٧ وصل وسررنا عن سماع
صحة حالكم الشريف وحالا نعرف الدولة البريطانية العظمى من طرف العبارة التي كتبتم بالنسبة
الى املاككم وحيثما يصلنا اليها احكامهم نعرفكم بالآتي وقال استحسنا ان جنابكم
جاعلين رسم من المأمور خمسة على جميع الاشيا التي تدخل في حوزتكم التي هي خلاف قاعدة
مستقيمة القديم وان جنابكم عازمين ان تقرروا في ملككم بعض الطوائف المتسع الذي
يزعم الدولة العثمانية انهم رعاياهم هذه الاقدامات يمكن باصدقائنا تجلب نظام
الدولة العثمانية على الكويت ولعل يصير بسبب المصادقة من تلك الدولة تحزيره وبينكم
ولكن لا نحن ننبهكم انه بسبب اوراق الخيرية عديدة التي الدولة البريطانية العظمى التي
اوراق خيرية واستيلا جنابكم والكويت تتوقف اكثر لازمكم تكونون
عن ان تتحملون كل حركة او تلفظون بكلام ما يورث احتجاج الدولة العثمانية بالمداخلة
في امور الكويت وننبهكم ثانيا ان تحفظون هذه المخابرة وكون المعاهدة ما بيننا السر
ولا تفشونها الى احد نتوقعها الدولة مناسبا وتمموا النا الى الاخوان والاولاد
جميعهم وتمت المحرر ٢٥ صفر المظفر سنة ١٣١٧ مطابق يوم ٢٥ جون ١٨٩٩



00211



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٧٩
١٨٩٩

00212

خلاصة الرسالة في ... [illegible]

من بحرين مرلوت في ٣٠ جون ١٨٩٩

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاكرم الافخم الفاضل الكرنل ميد ... بالبوز وقونسل

دام مجده آمين بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العلية لازلتم في خير وعافيه ولم في ابرك الاوقات واشرف الساعات تشرفت بكتابكم السامي نمبر ١٨ المؤرخ في ١٦ شهر صفر ١٣١٧ مطابق في ٢٥ جون ١٨٩٩ وما عرفتم ففهمت منضمه وصول سعادتكم بجوفه كتاباً مفتوحاً باسم الصاحب في جواب كتابه الذي هو لحظتكم فلما تشرفت عليه وعلاه حسب امركم لاحظته بكمال الدقة وختمته وحررت كتاب لجنابه ووضعته بطيه وسلمته للشخص الذي هو منتظر الجواب وذلك في ١٨ شهر صفر ١٨٩٩ مطابق في ٢٧ جون ١٨٩٩ ولاكن بواسطة شدة ريح شمال صار له تاخير عن السفر وحالا هنا ريح مع سكون الريح سافر ليحيط بذالك علمكم ودمتم سالمين ومحروسين والسلام حرر في ٢ شهر صفر ١٣١٧ مطابق في ٣٠ جون ١٨٩٩

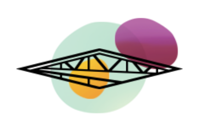
صح محمد ... [illegible]

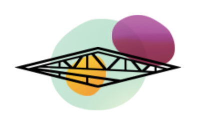
Recd. at 12.55 pm
[illegible]
No. 79

30th June 1899.

From Residency Agent Bahrein
To Resident

A.C. I have received your letter No. 18 of 2[illegible] June 1899. What you wrote is noted. You sent under flying seal a letter addressed to the friend in reply to the





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letter sent enclosed in one to my name from the friend. I perused the same and carefully sealed it. after writing a letter and enclosing it therewith and handed it on the 27th June to the person who was waiting to receive it; but owing to the strong breeze blowing his departure was delayed until the subsiding of the wind today ~~and~~

(Sgd) Mohd. Rahim Saffar

JCG
3/7/99

7A

Residency Agent reports that the messenger taking this office Confidential letter No. 185 of 25 June to Sheikh Mobarek of Koweit, left Bahrein on the 30th June 1899.

JCG
1.10 pm. 2-7-99

Resident

This [illegible] may be filed?

~~[illegible]~~ 3/7/99

Yes but should we not report this to Govt.?

[illegible] 4/7.

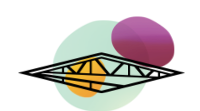




Resident

About 8 days ago I heard that Haji Nassir had just arrived from Koweit I therefore at once asked Mohd Khalil to see him & find out what news he can get from him about Koweit.

He tells me that Haji Nassir informed him that while there he heard that Sheikh Mobarek received a message from Hamdi Pasha, Wali of Busreh to the effect that he desired to go to Koweit and meet Sheikh Mubarek with a view to settle the question of the properties between the various branches of the family and that in reply to the Wali's message Sheikh Mubarek informed him that he would meet him on the Island of "Failucha" if so desired to save him the trouble of going all the way to Koweit, and that Sheikh Mubarek has launch two large sailing boats in readiness to proceed to Failucha directly he hears the date of the Walis proposed visit.



It is also reported that Sheikh Mubarek is saying that in accordance with the his fathers Will, he & the brothers who are with him own 20 shares of the whole of the properties and the other faction of the family only one share.

I do not know how far the above information is true and possibly the Sheikh did not get the Wali's message until after he wrote his letter of the 5th June.

Your visit to Koweit in January last no doubt gave the Turks a good deal to think over and of course it is to their interests to find out what it was all about and probably they sent Hamdi Pasha back to Busreh for that very reason, to ferret out what is going on. His visit to Koweit I think, may be taken for granted, is for the purpose of questioning Sheikh Mubarek. I hardly think that Hamdi Pasha would trouble himself to go to Koweit for the sole purpose of settling the question



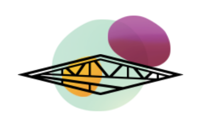
of the properties as it would be more lucrative to himself & his officials if he left the matter to go through the Law Courts at Busreh.

I think however the Wali's movements should be watched and a Gunboat might go to Fao in case any treachery is designed against Sheikh Mubarak.

I am also informed that Sheikh Mubarek with a view to further strengthen his position and put a stop to the constant petty wars between the Matair tribe in Lahassa and the Ajman tribe to whom he is related by marriage, has married a daughter of the Sheikh of the Matair tribe and reconciled the two tribes all of whom have now taken up their abode in the Koweit district.

JCG
28/6/99

Dear Prideaux
Please see above - Perhaps we might send the Sphinx over



to Mohammerah – but there is the Quarantine
Question. It w[oul]d not be much use her
going if she cannot communicate
with the shore – By the way did I send
you McDonald's last letter saying he had
received mine? [deleted text] If you have it please send
it & p.p. over I intend writing D.O. to
Sir H.M.D. by the Kossid on subject
of R.C's visit. Yrs

[signature] 29-6-99

I will write D.O. to W. Wratislaw by next mail
[initials] 30/6

Resident

I don't think there is any use in sending a gun-boat to Mohammerah whilst our information is still so indefinite. we should probably hear of Hamdi Pasha's movements in quite enough time.

[initials] 29/6/99



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Confidential

No. 886 E. A.

A copy of the foregoing print is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 547 E/A, dated the 10th April 1899.

By order, etc.,

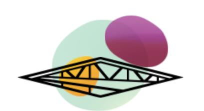
S F Bayley

Asstt Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 20th June 1899.

Asia Confidential Print, section 1, dated the 24th April, 1899.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 248 F. D.—7-6.99—500.





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ASIA. [April 24.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 1.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received April 24.)

(No. 194. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 20, 1899.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18, Confidential, of the 18th January, I have the honour to transmit copy of a Memorandum by Mr. Weakley, Commercial Attaché, on the negotiations which appear to be still proceeding with the Sublime Porte for the grant of the Concession for the railway from Tripoli in Syria to the Persian Gulf.

It is stated in this Memorandum that Mr. Meyers has retired from the concern; that the Company to which he belonged has been recast under the style of Messrs. Williams, de Broé, and Co.; that a powerful Syndicate, enjoying the support of Messrs. Rothschild and other well-known financiers, has promised its co-operation, and that, in order to remove the apprehension of a Russian control, Count Kapnist is to be induced to sell his interest in the line.

M. Rechnitzer, an Austrian subject, represents the firm at Constantinople, and the project is under examination in the Turkish Ministry of Public Works.

I have expressed my views fully on the subject of this scheme in my above-mentioned despatch and in my previous reports. The withdrawal of the Russian element puts a somewhat different complexion upon it, but the information at my disposal is not yet sufficiently complete to enable me to form a final judgment. I should be glad to learn from your Lordship whether the strong financial support of which the Company boasts is really behind it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum by Mr. Weakley.

(Confidential.)

I HAVE been able to obtain the following information from Mr. Pears regarding the present position of Count Kapnist's scheme for building a railway from Tripoli in Syria to Koweit.

Mr. Meyers, of the firm of Messrs. Williams, Meyers, and Co., who, in conjunction with M. Rechnitzer, came to Constantinople last October to facilitate the negotiations carried on by Count Kapnist with the Sublime Porte, has now ceased to be a member of the firm. The new firm, under the style of Messrs. Williams, de Broé, and Co., continue to take an active interest in the scheme, and have formed a Syndicate composed of the following business houses established in London, to support the project:—

- The Exploration Company.
- Messrs. Matheson and Co.
- Messrs. Rosenthal and Co.
- Messrs. S. Neumann and Co.
- Messrs. A. G. Schiff and Co.

These houses have also been able to enlist the support and co-operation of the following financial people:—

- N. M. Rothschild.
- Lord Revelstoke (of Baring's).
- Morgan's.
- Bleichröder.
- Disconto Gesellschaft.
- Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas.

This Syndicate is represented by M. Rechnitzer in Constantinople.

[1787 *q*—1]



In the interest of furthering the negotiations with the Turkish authorities, it has been deemed advisable to induce Count Kapnist to give up his interest in the project, and this he has consented to do, in return for a substantial consideration. Count Kapnist has, consequently, drawn up a declaration, in which he states that he has hitherto been acting on behalf of an English Syndicate, and that having ceased to have any further interest in the Concession applied for, he resigns all his rights in favour of M. Rechnitzer, the representative of the Syndicate, who in future is to be considered the real concessionnaire. This declaration will be presented to the Ministry of Public Works as soon as the terms upon which Count Kapnist gives up his interest have been agreed to.

M. Rechnitzer has obtained a letter of introduction from the Austrian Foreign Office to the Austrian Ambassador in Constantinople, but I understand M. Rechnitzer has not yet presented it. Mr. Block informs me that letters have also been received from Messrs. Rothschild by the Sublime Porte, recommending M. Rechnitzer.

The draft Convention for the proposed railway has been drawn up by Mr. Alexander Henderson, M.P., and has been submitted to the Ministry of Public Works, where it is now being examined and discussed in detail.

The demand for a kilometric guarantee has not been accepted by the Turkish authorities, but that a proposal for guaranteeing the line, out of the increase of the tithe revenue of the districts through which the railway will pass, has been favourably entertained.

(Signed) ERNEST WEAKLEY.

Constantinople, April 18, 1899.



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Confidential

Bushire
4th July 1899

My dear Wratislaw
I have heard lately fr Govt that "it is not considered necessary at present to give any warning to the Porte (about Koweit) "but Wratislaw will hint to Hamdi when "occasion offers that to attack Koweit "would get him into trouble".
You will probably have received instructions, ere this, fr Constantinople on this point.
I hear that Hamdi Pasha told the Shaikh that he wd like to go & pay him a visit to discuss the question of the estates in the Busreh Dist. Is there any truth in this?
It is also reported that the Sheikh is in communication with the Saadoon family of the Montifik tribe of Arabs who own property on the Shat ul Arab and elsewhere & that they talk of throwing up Turkish rule & going to live at Koweit.
I have written to Mubarik & told



told him to keep quiet, &
if you hear of any nonsense
of the sort please let me
know.
I hope to get off soon to Karachi
but much will depend on
the course the plague takes.
It seems to have died out
a good deal just now.

F.A.
Kindly make copies of this & of mine to Dr [illegible] it is a [illegible] & I will send them [illegible] to Foreign [illegible] 11/7

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BRITISH CONSULATE.
BUSSORAH.

July 7.99

My dear Colonel,
Yes, I am to give
Hamdi a hint when he
next touches the subject
of K. It is rather a delicate
job, is it not?
I have heard nothing
about Hamdi's proposed
visit to Koweit to settle
the question of the estates,

up a livelihood at Koweit
(Sd) Wratislaw



him to keep quiet, &
hear of any nonsense
sort please let me

e to get off soon to Karachi
much will depend on
course the plague takes.
seems to have died out
deal just now.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
BUSSORAH

and doubt whether there is any truth in the report. Mubarek's brother Hamoud is here, endeavouring to come to terms with the nephews. Having apparently failed, he sent word to me on Tuesday that he would like me to intervene to help him. I told the messenger to come back on Saturday for an answer, & at once wired to the Ambassador for instructions, expressing my opinion that I had better not interfere. H.E. has evidently referred the question home, as I have as yet rec^d no answer.

I have heard nothing about the proposed emigration of Arabs from Muntefik district but will inquire. It does not sound likely, and I don't see how they would pick up a livelihood at Koweit

(sd) Wratislaw



No 84

7th July 99

From Residency Agent, Bahrein
To Resident.
A/C

Enclosed will reach you the letter I have received from Sheikh Mubarak Al Subah together with its enclosure sent with Haji Ali bin Gholam.
In his said letter is an order to hand over the Rs 15,000 of which you are aware, to the said person who will take his departure in a day or two as he has some private business of his own to do, and when leaving I will secretly hand the same over to him at night and take receipt from him.
In the enclosure to his said letter is stated ~~the~~ what is occurring at his end in these days regarding the dispute between him & his nephews and Cousins in the matter of their shares in the property. and that he has sent his brother Hamood with the person who went to him from the Wali of Busreh, who is an inhabitant of Busreh, for the purpose of interviewing ~~of~~ the said Wali in reference to the dispute. According to what he states he has instructed him to communicate with the British Consul at Busreh secretly



and he (Sheikh) trusts that you will inform the Consul to support him.

If it meets with your views [illegible] and you approve, will you write to Sheikh Mobarek a reply through me or instruct me to communicate with him as you may see proper. It will give him the greatest pleasure.

J.A.

With reference to his coming to Bahrein it appears from the enclosure to the letter to you, that he has given up the idea.

(Sgd) Mohd Rahim

J.C.

13/7/99



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بسم الله

حضرة جناب الافخم جليل الشيم الاخ اغا محمد رحيم بن عبد النبي صفر المحترم دام بقاه

عقب الاسعاد بمن ملك الذات الجامعة المحاسن الكمالات ونحن بحمد الله بخير ادام الله لكم ذلك
وثانيا اخي بهذه الدفعه ارسلنا لطرفكم حاجي علي بن غلوم بموجبكم تدفعون بيده مبلغ الخمسة عشر الف روبيه
والرصيدات عندك اثنان الف ونقل فرزتم عنا افضل الجزاء تتقيدون بحسب الامر منا انشاء الله المامول منه
هذا دايم اعلام سلامتكم السارة لا تقطع عنا مع ما يلزم شرفونا به من سنا الاعزاز والاولاد يسلمون
ودمتم سالمين في ٢٢ شعبان ١٣١٧

مبارك الصباح

ايضا لحاق صورته من الشيخ مبارك الصباح

وعرفناكم اذا حصل فرصه نصل لطرفكم مقدار يوم يومين فنشوف اي حال فرصه ولا هنا ما بنا كد مانع
الا مانع خير بوجودكم انشاء الله البال مستريح وبعدما بعد هذا هم فنشوف برضوا الله ان يقسم لنا الخير





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من البحرين ريبورت ١٧ جولاى ١٨٩٩

بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العلية لا زلتم في خير وعافية ونعم هذا وانه لما تحضرتم نعلمكم بأنه وصل الينا ان الشيخ
العبد الله ح ع المفوض الذي يكون في صحبة مرسوله الحاج علي بن غلوم رضى في كتابه المذكور باسترسال تسليم مبلغ خمسة آلاف
الذي هي لحضرتكم الى الرجل المذكور وبعد تاريخه بيوم يومين سار فرلانه بعلالة في عرك اشغال لقبضها الذي
وفي وقت سفره سلمتم ذلك اليه شرا اخ الكيل وناقصته الرصيدات ومن جهة مفهوم كتابه المذكور وانها
فيها المجاري عندهم بهذه الايام المحاورات فيما بينه وابناء اخوانه وبني عمه من جهة استحقاقهم من الاملاك
ولذا ارسل اخوه حمود في صحبة الشخص المرسل اليه من والي البصرة الذي هو من اهالي البصرة لاجل ملاقات الوالي
المذكور من جهة هذه المحاورات وحسبما يذكرونه قد اوصاه بتجارة عالية والبوم الدولة كهيبة
مقيم في البصرة شرا وانه ايضا مأموله من سعادتكم بتعرفون المذكور بمساعدته فاذا تقتضي رايكم
ذلك فهل تستحسن تكتبون الى الشيخ مبارك جواب من طرف جنابكم ام تامرونا بالتعريف له بما انتم تستحسنون
هذا يكون زيادة مسرة خاطره ورايكم الاعلى
ومن جهة وصوله الى البحرين بموجب تعريفه في ورقة عليحاج الذي هي واصله لحضرتكم بالحرف فتبيان منه التوقف
عن هذا العزم وهذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم سالمين محروسين والسلام ٢ صفر سنة ١٣١٧
حرر في ٧ جولاى ١٨٩٩





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1st July 1899

From Mobarek bin Subah
To Residency Agent Bahrein
A.C.

God

Praise good my health is good
On this occasion I have sent you Haji
Ali bin Ghaloom. I beg you to hand him
the sum of Rs 15,000. He has two
receipts viz an original and a duplicate.
You have treated me with the best
of treatment. I am careful against
divulgence, agreeable to order.
It is hoped that you will not discontinue
the information which give pleasure.

sgd Mobarek bin Subah.

P.S.

I informed you that if I got an
opportunity I would visit your side
for a day or two. I do not see an
opportunity and please God the cause
thereof is a good one. My mind is
easy and after this I will see (if I can
possibly come) I pray God that he
will decree that which will bring good.





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بسم الله

دامت محروساً بعناية الربانية

يا حبيب احوالنا الله يحمد تسركم من كل جهة وما حدث شي مهمة الا من زياده من قوم عجم نفعاً ركدوا [illegible] وحيث ان
تبادر لكم ما يحدث ان والي البصره حمدي باشا في ولايته السابقه شغلنا منه سوء معامله وظلم علينا في [illegible]
تتعرف بلا شيأنه وكان [illegible] للبصره واولاد محمد وجراح الصباح وورثته على كبارهم معنا حصص في املاكنا الفاو والصويه
والكدن والجبيليه ودعيا جزيه والدكتو لنا وعبدالله الشري اجا لطرفنا دفعتين [illegible] ان ينعى الاولاد
مقدار من ملك الذى يقابل حصصهم ونحن الى الساق معطينهم حصصهم ولهم ايضاً الملاقاة المبارات لكن انهم ليس
قابلين بالحوب عليهم اولاد محمد الاجرم الذى بلغكم من الشقى يوسف ابراهيم ما نظره من ثم وه حوالي المسودين ابن ثاني
وسوالهم جميعه في الشقاق مع ابن رشيد وكل هذا الله يعلم ان عندنا اهميه لابن رشيد ولا ابن ثاني ولا صار لهم فيهم كل
محل يعاون الله يخلفه ومعلوم جنابكم ان منصوبين المصالح ساديين ما هم جهل جهله ولا يحيدون الرجال ولا يجحدون
الحقوق من عظام اجنبتنى ساعدوه وكان حمدي باشا عندنا في ولايته السابقه ما هو حضرت منا والان لا
ولد وهو في البصره ونائبه عنده والله حاط له واسطه للبرطيل وصباح واخوانه بواسطه المترددين يسعون
لهم الاستقبال مع ولد حمدي باشا ومعطيه مقدار كلي من الدراهم اذا شيء عدهم على عذر حقوقنا ويكون بيدهم
مقدار من الملك وهنا برطيل ما هي قطعاً ولا نشرطهم ولا نعطيهم الا استحقاقهم من بعض الاوراق الذى بيننا
من قبله واغلبها كتبت الشقى يوسف ابراهيم قبل بيعه وفي حضور [illegible] وقبل الذين بطونا او بيناهم الاوراق
وتنعود وشهدوا على كتبت الشقى يوسف الابراهيم ولا بقي لهم طريق على الادها ثم شيأت بواسطه الرشوه وقبل تاريخه
بيوم شبنا الاخ محمود الصباح مع عبدالله الشرى على طريق البر يواجه الوالي ويحكي معه ان حقوقهم [illegible] عندنا
هامن عرض عموم الصباح بالحقوق تقبلوتها نعم المطلوب انقلبوها هم معتبرين الحق يحسب [illegible] الوالي الباقي مع
عبدالله الشرى بين [illegible] في الحاله الى شكله توافق العقلاء حقوقهم فيكتب فيها اوراق اذا ما يكون
احد الوجهاء [illegible] ولا يعطى درب ولا يسمع حجه [illegible] اذا ما يبغوا احد هذه الوجهاء [illegible]
نطيع الوالي ونشانه اذا ما شيء عدهم [illegible] تعرضون ذلك [illegible] وجينا الاخ محمود
الصباح الا [illegible] سراً [illegible] الى باليوز في البصره يخابره في مسالة [illegible]
من [illegible] الى باليوز البصره دام الاحترام [illegible]





My friend.

My condition in every respect please God will give you pleasure. God willing I trust in greater considerations of the Government and it is necessary to acquaint you with what occurs.

The Wali of Busreh Hamdi Pasha during his former Waliship I experienced bad treatment and I sent a telegram against him to Constantinople. Now he has returned to Busreh and the sons of Mohamed and Jerrah and the heirs of Ali Aljabir have shares with me in the properties of Fao, ~~and~~ Sofia, Zain and the Ojairawieh. They (ie their shares) are few and the majority are mine.

Abdullah al Mishri has twice come to this side, being sent to simplify matters that I may give to sons (of my brothers & uncle) a portion of the properties equivalent to their shares. I formerly gave them their shares and they have my consideration; but they are not satisfied. They are being played with. First they instigated the raid known to you, with the mischievous Yousef bin Ibrahim, and were repulsed. Then they went to the black-faced Jassim bin Thani who collected a host for them and arranged an understanding with Bin Rashid. I thank God that these have no consideration with me



and they have gained nothing. What ever they do God will destroy it. You know that the Turkish officials are corrupt and have no jealousy and do not weigh the man or follow the rights of the people. Who ever bribes them they will give him support.

Now Hamdi Pasha, as I have stated was not pleased with me during his former Waliship. He has his son with him at Busreh and he is governed by his son who has intermediaries for arranging bribes. Subah and his brothers (i.e. the Sheikh's Nephews) through the intermediaries have got up and acquaintance with Hamdi Pasha's son and have given him a large sum of money to assist them in the ~~[illegible]~~ operations against my rights and to get hold of some of the property. I do not give bribes at all and do not make promises and do not give them (i.e. Nephews & Cousins) anything except their rightful dues according to justice agreeable to documents ~~between~~ existing between us; the majority of which are in the writing of the wicked Yousef bin Ibrahim. In the presence of Mohd. Abdulwahab and Mukbil here I showed them the documents and they were satisfied and testified to the writings of the wicked Yousef bin Ibrahim and they have no just way or means except grabbing through bribery.

Yesterday I sent my brother Hamood Al-Subah with Abdullah al Mishri overland to meet the Wali and ~~speak with~~ tell him that



their (i.e. the Nephews & Cousins) shares are known to us; and they descended from the paternal uncles of Subah. If they accept the right, well and good; if they do not the right it they who are turning aside from the right.

According to the Wali's message sent with Abdallah al-Mishri it appears he wishes to compromise (the matter) in a manner that they shall receive equivalent to their (original) share so that the documents (of settlement) be written.

If one of these two means are not accepted Hamood will take charge of the properties and will not way to anyone and I will not listen their further statements if they do not accept one of these means, nor will I obey the Wali and his interference if he supports them in an unjust manner.

I beg of you to represent the matter early (to the Resident. I have instructed my brother Hamood-al-Subah if he reaches Busreh to send secretly a trustworthy person to the (British) Consul and ask him for his secret support. I hopefully look forward to the issue of a secret message from Bushire to the Consul at Busreh.





٨٤
١٨٩٩

[illegible]

من بحرين رپوت ٧ جولاي ١٨٩٩ سنه

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاكرم الاشم الجنا الكرنل ميد باليوز وقونسل جنرال الدولة

دام محفوظ امين   بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العليه لانكم في خير وعافيه   وبعد هذا واملا
لحضرتكم لقا كتاب تواصل الينا من الشيخ مبارك الصباح مع الملفوفة الذي بجوفه صحبة رسوله الحاج
علي بن غلوم وفي كتابه المذكور امر بتسليم مبلغ خمسة عشر الف روبيه الذي هي لعلمكم الى الرجل المذكور
ولبعد ثلثة يوم او يومين سيسافر لانه بحال الحاضر عنده اشغال يقضيها لنفسه وفي وقت سفره
سنسلم ذالك اليه سراً في الليل وناخذ منه الوصيلات   ومن جهة ملفوفة كتابه المذكور شارحا
فيها الجاري عندهم بهذه الايام المحاورات فيما بينه وابناء اخوانه وبني عمه من جهة استخفافهم من
الاملاك وانه ارسل اخوه حمود في صحبة الشخص الواصل اليه من والي البصره الذي هو من اهالي البصره
لاجل ملاقات الوالي المذكور من جهة هذه المحاورات وحسبما ذكر انه قد اوصاه بمخابرة عالي الجاه باليوز
الدولة البهية القيصرية المقيم في البصرة سراً وانه ايضاً مأموله من سعادتكم تعرفون المذكور بما عنده
فاذا يقتضي رايكم فذالك هل يستحسن تكتبون الى الشيخ مبارك جواب من معرفة محبكم
ام تامروننا بالتعريف له بما انتم مستحسنين هذا يكون زيادة مسرة خاطرنا ورايكم الاعلا
ومن جهة وصوله الى البحرين فبموجب تلغرافية ورقة علحده الذي هي واصله لحضرتكم بالجوف
يتبين منه التوقف عن هذا العزم هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم سالمين ومحروسين والسلام
حرر في ٢٨ شهر صفر سنه ١٣١٧ مطابق في ٧ شهر جولاي ١٨٩٩ سنه   محبكم محمد رحيم ابن عبد النبي



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لو تعالى   دمتم محروسين بعناية الوهاب

يا محب احوالنا لله الحمد تسركم من كل جهه وبعد انشاء متى ما حلقى زيارة يوم قوع
انضاد الدولة لفخيم المعضم فيجب ان نبا دركم بما يحدث ان والي البصرة حمدي باشا
في ولايته السابقة شفنا منه سو معامله وطرقنا عليه ذالك الوقت تلغراف للاستانة
والآن هو راجع للبصرة واولاد محمد وجراح الصباح وورثة يجي الجابر لهم معنا حصص
في املاكنا الفاو والصوفيه والدويج والجديده وهيا جزيره والاكثرلنا والصوفه
التي لنا الحيازة آبائهم والآن الوالي المذكور موسط عبد الله المدي وعبد الله
المشري اجا لطرفنا دفعتين وسلم بطريق التساهل ان نعطي الاولاد مقدار من الملك
الذي يقابل حصصهم ونحن ذا ساعة مطيعين حصصهم ولهم ايضاً منا المراعات
والمباداه لاكن انهم ليس قابلين ملحوظ عليهم اولاً عمله الهجوم الذي بلغكم
مع كشتي يوسف الابراهيم والطرود وثانياً راحهم الى المسعود ابن ثاني وسعيهم
حميه ولنفاق مع ابن رشيد وكلهذا لله الحمد حال عندنا اهميه لا ابن ثاني ولا ابن رشيد
ولا صار لهم نتيجه كل عمل يعملونه الله يفله ومعلوم جنابكم انه قصدهم بالحقوق
المصلحي فالسعد مادام اهل حميه ولا يحبون الرجال ولا يتبعون الحقيقه
ذا عطاهم الجيش ساعدون والحال حمدي باشا مثلما ذكرنا في ولايته السابقه
ما هي محفوظه منا ولانه لو لل وعمه في البصرة ودايم عنده وله وحاطاله وصطه
للداخل وصباح واخوانه لهم اصطياد المذكورين مسعى
لفصال مع ولد حمدي باشا ومعطينه مقدار كلي من الدراهم اذا يساعدهم
على عدد حقوقنا ولكون بعض بينهم مقدار من الملك والخبايو الطلا ما نعطي
قطعاً ولا نفق طالبهم ولا نعطيهم الا استحقاقهم من جب الحق الجيب الاوراق
الذي بيننا وبينهم واغلبها كتبت الشيخ يوسف الابراهيم قبله بيده وفي خطوط محمد العبد الوهاب
وقبل الذلك لطرفنا اورينا هم الاوراق وقفهم وسهلهم وعلى كتبت الشيخ يوسف الابراهيم
ولا بقى لهم طريقة حق الا هالتشبثات بواسطة الوسطه وقبلنا دايماً بيوم منتسبا
الاخ محمد الصباح مع عبد الله المشري على طريقة الى يوجبه الوالي والحكي معه انه حقوقهم
معلوم عندنا هماذ عوض عموم الصباح بالحقوق يقبلونها نعم المطلوب جا يقبلونها
هم مجتنبين الحق والجب وصارت الوالي لنا مع عبد الله المذي يسعى بسعي لطريق
المصالحه في الحاله الي تسلك توافق لمقدار حقوقهم نكتب فيها اوراق اذا لم
يكونه احد له جهتين محمد يقفد بالاملاك ولا يعطي درب ولا نسمح بعد قولهم
اذا ما تسمع احد هذه الجهتين ولا نطيع الوالي وتشبثاته اذا يساعدهم
بغير الحق من جهتكم بوجه السرع لو تطونه ذالك نحنا اوصينا الاخ محمد الصباح
الى وصل البصرة سوياً يحترمقدة الا البيوز في البصرة الخاجه في مساعدتنا سوانيه
نامل اضفى وهم من العائد الا البيوز لبصرة داخل لقاء الجميع

00227



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00238

دام بقاه

بحمد الله تعالى حضرة جناب المكرم محب الشيم الأخ اغا محمد رحيم ابن المرحوم الحاج عبد النبي صفر المحترم

لا تقطعا عن تلك الذات الجامعة لمحاسن الكمالات وانتم الحمد لله تعالى بخير ادام الله تعالى لكم ذلك وثانياً اخي الافخم ارسلنا لطرفكم حاجي علي ابن غلوم من جهتكم قد قبضنا بيده مبلغ الخمسة عشر الف روبية والوصول ان تقدمنا وصل ونقل جزيتم عنا افضل الجزاء ورسولنا الحاجي علي ابن غلوم المذكور هو رجل موثوق ولا بد اذا الحق بيننا الفاهم فهذا الذي مقتضى من الجانب لازم عرف الافندي المأمول بعد هذا دوام اعلام السار لا تقطعوا عنا محابيكم من قوانين وعن الاخوان والاولاد يسلمون ودمتم سالمين والسلام

٢٢ صفر ١٣١٧

مبارك الصباح



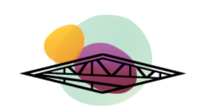


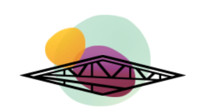
244

وعرفناكم اذ حصل قصد نصل طرفكم مقدار يوم يومين فنشوف ما يحصل

وصار ولا هناك الحمد ما نرى الا امانه خير بوجودكم انشاء الله الا مستكن الح

والحنا بعد هذا هم نشوف نو جده انه يفسح ما به الخبر حالا





نمره ٨٦
١٨٩٩

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No 86 from

من المحمره الى بندر ابوشهر مارخ ٢٤ ربيع الاول ١٣١٧ مطابق ٣١ جولاي ١٨٩٩

الجهة العربية من خليج فارس [illegible]

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه دوي الشوكة الاجلال الاكرم الافخم المعظم الصاحب الكرنيل ميد باليوز دولة انكلترا [illegible]

دام بقاه آمين بعد السلام والسوال الخاطر حضراتكم العليه بوزرتم في خير وعافيه وقد وصل واحد محترمكم [illegible]

المحرر لسعادتكم المشعر مؤرخ ٢ صفر ١٣١٧ مطابق ١٢ جولاي ١٨٩٩ المرسول في خصوص من اهالي بوشهر يريد

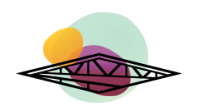
الحاج ابو القاسم من سواد كتاب الصاحب [illegible] وسواد ادرت [illegible] المذكورة بينا وجدنا ذلك احتياطاً لاحتمال

عدم وصول ذلك من اختلاف الهوا ومن جهة الحاج علي بن عبدالحليم الذي هو شخص المحامل من طرفه الى تاريخه

لم سافر بحيث ما قضى اشغاله فاذا قضا اشغاله سوف يقبض الدراهم وقت سفره في الحال يقبض منه [illegible]

ونعرض لسعادتكم ودمتم سالمين ومحروسين والسلام حرر ٢٤ ربيع الاول ١٣١٧ مطابق ٣١ جولاي ١٨٩٩

مخلصكم [illegible]



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00229

[illegible]



00230

No 111 d/16 July 1899

letter to Resy Agent
Bahrein

a/c

I have received your letter in wh you tell me that [illegible] friend has sent his [illegible] Sheikh Hamand. to Busrah, & wishes the [illegible] Consul there to assist him in his business. Before I got your letter I heard fr Mr Wratislaw that Sheikh Hamand had applied to him, & that he had referred matter to the Government for orders — I must therefore now await result, & trust that every



will turn out to the satisfaction
of our friend & his brothers to
whom you 8d conveying my
best salaams -

MJM[illegible]

16/7 -



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١٨٩٩

وكيل البحرين

قد وصلنا كتابكم الذي عرفتنا فيه ان صديقنا ارسل اخاه الشيخ حمود الى الكويت

واراد بذلك توسل اليه رايحه الانكليز يساعدهم في امور تفصل وصل كتابكم مستغربا

من مثل هذا لان الشيخ حمود اظهر له وهو راجع الى الدوله امانه لاهل الحكم ولذلك

لزم لنا ان ننتظر النتيجه والامل ان كل المراد يقع بموجب مراد خاطر صديقنا واخوانه

وجوابكم يكون تسلمه غدا وختام السلام حرر في ١٧ ربيع الاول سنه ١٣١٧

طابق ٢٥ جولاي ١٨٩٩



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00232

Confidential D.O.

Bushire
16 July /99

Dear Mr Barnes

I enclose for your information copies of letters that have passed between the Consul at Busreh & myself about Koweit. The copies have been made by Mr Prideaux 1st Asst Resident

Yours trly
Sd/ M J Meade





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00233

١٧ / ٧
١٨٩٩

No 87 17th July 1899

From. Residency Agent Bahrein
To. Resident
&c.

من بحرين بوت في ١٧ جولاي سنة ١٨٩٩

[illegible]

حضرة جناب العالي الجاه ذوي الشوكة والاجلال الاكرم الاحشم الاشيم الصاحب الكرنل ميد باليوز دوفول

بعد السلام والسؤال عن صحة ذاتكم العليه لازلتم في خير وعافيه ولا يخفى
دام مجدكم آمين
سعادتكم من جهة الحاج علي بن غلوم الذي هو مرسول جناب المكرم الشيخ مبارك الصباح لاجل قبض
خمسة عشر الف روبيه المعروض لسعادتكم عن وصوله سابقاً في ٣ ربيع الاول سنة ١٣١٧ مطابق ١٣
جولاي سنة ١٨٩٩ قد سلمنا بيده المبلغ المزبور وسافر الى الكويت والوصيدين الذين استلمناهم منه
واصلين لحضرتكم لفّاً تلاحظون الجميع بالصحة والعافية هذا ما لزم عرضه ودمتم سالمين
ومحروسين والسلام حرر في ٨ ربيع الاول سنة ١٣١٧ مطابق في ١٧ جولاي سنة ١٨٩٩
محب محمد رحيم بن عبد النبي

With reference to Haji Ali bin Ghuloom sent by Sheikh Mobarak al-Subah to receive the Rs 15,000 about whom I previously reported, I on the 13th July delivered over to him the said sum & he left for Koweit. The receipt (in duplicate) I took from him are transmitted herewith.

(Sd) Mohd Rahim

JCG
21/7/99

Resident
Submitted. File is with you.
22/7/99



الله تعالى ربيه
١٥٠٠٠

قد وصلنا من جناب الاغا محمد رحيم ابن عبدالنبي صفر مبلغ خمسة عشر الف روبيه سكه وذلك عن امر حضرة المفخم كرنل ميد قنصل وجنرال الدولة البهيه القيصريه الانكليزيه في خليج فارس واعطينا هذا لقبض اصل ونقل والاجل لبيانه تحرر هـ

٢٢ صفر ١٣١٧

مبارك الصباح

In the Name of Almighty God. Rs. 15000

I have received from Agha Mohamed Rahim bin Abdulneby Saffer the sum of Rupees 15000 which were ordered (to be given) by Colonel Meade H.B. M's Consul General in the Persian Gulf

I have given this (receipt) in duplicate for evidence.

Dated the 2nd July 1899

(sgd) Mobarek-al Sabah

(L.S.)

[initials] 2/7/99



250

00235



الربيات ١٥٠٠٠

قد وصلنا من جناب الاغا محمد رحيم ابن عبدالنبي صفر مبلغ خمسة عشر الف روبية سكه وذلك عما امر به حضرة المفخم كرنل ميد قنصل جنرال الدولة البهية القيصرية الانكليزية في خليج فارس واعطيناه هذا القبض اصل ونقل والاجل البيان حرر هذا

٢٢ صفر ١٣١٧

مبارك الصباح

In the Name of Almighty God.

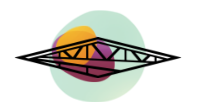
Rs 15000

I have received from Agha Mohamed Rahim bin Abdulneby Saffer the sum of Rupees 15,000 ~~[illegible]~~ which were ordered (to be given) by Colonel Meade, H.B. M's Consul General in the Persian Gulf

I have given this (Receipt) in duplicate for evidence. Dated the 2nd July 1899. (sgd) Mobarek-al-Sabah

(L.S.)

JCM
2/7/99.



251

00237

P.A. –
I think we might (Copy)
give copy confidential
to S NO - Vizier
577

Confidential

No. 305

Government of India
Marine Department
Simla, the 12th June 1899.

To

His Excellency Rear Admiral A. L. Douglas,
Commanding Her Majesty's Naval Forces,
East Indies Station.

Sir,

With reference to the possibility of an attack on Koweit the Resident in the Persian Gulf reports that he does not anticipate any movement being made for some time to come, but he considers that it is best to be prepared for all eventualities. As the interests involved are considerable, His Excellency the Viceroy would be glad if Your Excellency would arrange for the retention of a gunboat at the head

of





of the Persian Gulf for the present.

I have, &ca,
(Sd) P. J. Maitland
Secretary to the Govt.
of India.

Confidential

No. 859-E A.

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, with reference to his letter No. 58, dated the 7th May 1899.

By order, &ca,
J. B. Wood
Offg: Under Secretary
to the Govt. of India.

Foreign Department
Simla, the 16th June/99.

From the Marine Department, to H. E. the Naval Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, No. 305, dated the 12th June/99.



Draft for approval

Confidential

No 335 Of 1899

Bushire 20 July/99

To

The Senior Naval officer,
Persian Gulf Division
Bushire

Sir

I have the honour to forward for your information copy of a Confl. letter No 305 ~~dated~~ forwarded to me under Foreign Department Confidential Endorsement No 859 Ea ~~Confidential~~ dated the 16th June last regarding retention of a gun boat at the head of the Persian Gulf.

I have &c

M.J.M.
Resident &c

W.R.
13/7/99

~~[illegible]~~ J.A.

Please report why this letter was not disposed of sooner.

I initialed it a week ago -

M.J.M.
20/7





253

00240

J.A.

a copy can be sent to S.N.O. for information then file

Confidential

Copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral A. L. Douglas, Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Marine Department, dated 24th June 1899.

[illegible] 25/7

With reference to your confidential letter No 305, of the 12th instant, I have the honour to inform you that I have directed the Senior Naval Officer in the Persian Gulf to carry out the wishes of His Excellency the Viceroy by detailing one of the vessels under his orders to remain at the head of the Gulf for the present.

According to my latest information the "Sphinx" and "Pigeon" are at Mascat, and the "Lapwing" at Bushire.

Rl



Confidential

No. 1027 E. A.

A copy of the foregoing letter is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department, No. 859 E. A., (Confidential), dated the 16th June 1899.

By order, &c.,

W B Wood

Offg: Under Secretary to the Govt of India.

Foreign Department
Simla, the 11th July 1899.

From His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, East Indies Station, dated the 24th June 1899 (to the Marine Department).



Draft for approval

241 254

No. 335 of 1899

Confidential Bushire, 26 July 1899

To

The Senior Naval Officer,
Persian Gulf Division
H.M.S. Sphinx

Sir

In continuation of my letter No. 333 dated the 20th instant, I have the honour to forward for your information, copy of a further confidential letter forwarded to me under the Government of India Confidential Endorsement No. 1027 E.a dated 11th idem regarding retention of H.M's Ships of war at the head of the Persian Gulf.

I have &c

W.R. 25/7/99 Resident &c





255

00242

H.M.S. Sphinx
at Rishahr.
26 July 99.

Sir.

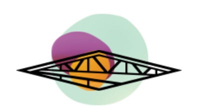
I have the Honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication No. 355 of 1899, dated 26th July (Confidential) with enclosure - Confidential Endorsement Govt. of India No. 1027 E.A. dated 11th idem., re retention of H.M. ships at Head of Persian Gulf.

I have the Honor to be
Sir.
Your obedient Servant

[signature]
Commr. & S.N.O.
Pers: Gulf Division

Col. M.J. Meade
Political Resident
Bushire.

R





256

Copy.

Bussorah

July 28. 1899

No: 26

Secret

Sir

With reference to my Despatch No: 34 of the 15th Instant I have the honour to report that, on receipt of Your Excellency's telegram of the 22nd Instant, I at once endeavoured to put myself into communication with Hamond, the younger brother of Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit. I found, however, that he had not returned to Bussorah and that he was understood to have gone back

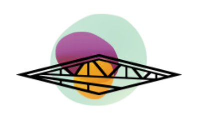
H. E. The Right Honourable
Sir N. R. O'Conor G. C. B.
&c. &c. &c.
Constantinople



back to Koweit after visiting some of the Sheikh's property down the River. I have no doubt, however, that as I understand, I have been inquiring after him from Abdul Latif who brought his message to me and that the Sheikh will thus understand ready to take an interest in his case. I have not thought it advisable to communicate with either of them by letter.

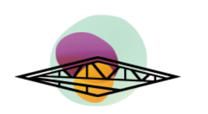
Copy.

I called on the Vali on the 26th Instant, and, introducing the



the subject of the division of the Koweit inheritance, expressed to H. E. a hope that he would be able to arrive at an equitable settlement, as this was a question to which H. M.'s Government were not indifferent. Hamdi Pasha replied that he should like nothing better than to wind up the affair, as the continual telegrams he received from Constantinople in consequence of the nephews' appeals gave him constant headaches. But he found it quite impossible to come to any just arrangement with Mubarek, who wanted to

keep



keep practically all for himself and give his nephews a mere pittance. The latest proposals were to give the latter £T 1000 a year out of the Fao properties, which produce £T 15,000 a year, and also let them have the small property at Kout el Zein, near Bussorah. The latter is registered in the name of the late Sheikh Mohammed Pasha, while the Fao property is still in the name of Sheikh Sabah, father and predecessor ~~and~~ to of Mohammed and Mubarek.



258

00245

I asked H.E. if it was not a fact that the nephews had entered a suit in the Sheri Courts against [illegible] for the recovery of their shares, and he replied that this was so, but the Sheikh had declined to file an answer to it.

The Vali did not tell me, but I hear from elsewhere that he has sent one Abdullah [illegible] to Koweit to negotiate afresh with Mubarek on this question.

It is very difficult to make any suggestion as to what would be an equitable division of the property. As Your Excellency is





is aware the law governing Real Property in Turkey is far from simple, and even had I a complete knowledge of it, it is doubtful whether I am in full possession of the facts of the case. Even the existence of Hamond was unknown to me till he appeared at Busrah, and in view of the enormous harems kept up by the Arab aristocracy of this district it is quite possible that there may be other claimants yet for shares in the succession.

The Fao property was originally stolen



259

00246

stolen by Sheikh Sabah from another family, and is still registered in their names. He was succeeded by his son Abdullah who died a natural death (apparently leaving no heirs.) Abdullah was succeeded by his brother Mohommed, who was created Kaimakam and Pasha by the Governor. Mohommed was murdered by Mubarek along with another brother Jerrah, and there are still two other brothers, Jabir and Hamoud, who adhere to Mubarek.

The claimants at Bussorah are three sons of Mohommed and one son of Jerrah.

[initials]



If Abdullah left no heirs, it would seem that the Fao property should be divided into five parts, one for each brother or his heirs, which would give the nephews here 2/5th or £T. 6,000 instead of £T. 600, as offered by Mubarak.

The property at Kout el Zein and also, I believe, another small place at Gerdelan, being in Mohammed's name, should descend to his sons. But these are, I understand, of quite secondary importance to those at Fao.

All the estates being in undoubted Turkish



260

Turkish territory, are obviously under the jurisdiction of the Turkish Courts and the Porte have treated Mubarek with surprising tenderness in allowing him to laugh at the tribunals and appropriate all the revenues of all the properties for himself during three years. It is doubtful, however, whether this indulgence will be continued in future, and it would indeed be most unjust towards the nephews.

I should add that Hamdi Pasha expressed some surprise when I mentioned the interest

when



which H. M's Government take in the question, and I explained to him that Great Britain could be indifferent to nothing which went on in the Persian Gulf where our interests are considerable. H. E. replied that he was aware of this, and went on to enlarge on the importance of Koweit and the comparative excellence of its harbour.

I have not yet had an opening for administering a warning to the Vali personally against any hostile action against Koweit. To the best of my belief, H. E. has no such intentions at present,

and



and I venture to suggest that I should be authorised to withhold the warning till I see indications of it being necessary. Hamdi Pasha is very touchy and short-tempered, and would certainly resent anything in the nature of an undeserved threat.

I have &c.

(Signed) G. C. Wratislaw





262

Copy

British Consulate
Bussorah Augst 2, 1899.

Confidential
No. 37

F.A.
This s.d be put in Koweit File

Sir,

I have the honour to report that I have drawn the vali's attention to a telegram from Constantinople published in the "Standard" of the 29th June to the effect that "Hamdi Pasha the Governor of Bussorah complains of English intrigues

His Excellency
The Right Honourable
Sir, N. R. O'Conor G.C.B.
&ca &ca &ca
British Embassy
Constantinople

There





There is little doubt that the state of the Province is far from satisfactory. It is filled with internecine strifes, and possibly the Vali wishes to cover his own responsibility by throwing the blame on imaginary English intrigues which, however, obtain a certain amount of credence at the Porte, partly owing to the presence of British war-ships in the Persian Gulf.

The



The Turks believe that any attempt on the part of Russia at Bunder Abbass would be the signal for a British 'Coup de main'."

His Excellency thanked me for giving him the opportunity of denying the truth of this statement. He had never complained of British intrigues, nor did he know of any, nor was there any foundation for asserting that the state

of



of the Province was far
from satisfactory. He had
no means of ascertaining
the movements of British
ships of war in the Persian
Gulf. As a matter of fact
the Province was, as I was
aware, in a quieter state
than usual, and he left
it to me to contradict the
untrue statement of the
Standard's correspondent.
I am of Course unacquainted
with the contents of Hamdi
Pasha's



Pasha's confidential reports to Constantinople, but he is perfectly correct in asserting that the Vilayet is comparatively quiet – absolute tranquility and order in a Province like Bussorah are not to be hoped for, but under Hamdi's administration its condition is perhaps as satisfactory as can be expected and is certainly not less satisfactory than in the time of his predecessors

predecessors.

His Excellency attributes the false rumours which are apparently in circulation concerning him at Constantinople to the machinations of the Nakib of Bussorah, his old and inveterate enemy, who he believes is endeavouring to intrigue him out of his post for the second time.

His Excellency further stated that he had just said his prayers, and the truth of

his



265
00252

his statements could be relied on.

I have etc
sgd A. C. Wratislaw
H. B. M's Consul,
Bussorah.

Copy forwarded with compliments to H. M's Resident & Consul Gl at Bushire.

British Consulate
Bussorah. Aug 2. 97.

A. C. Wratislaw
HM's Consul





(Copy)

Received with letter from Secretary, Political and Secret Department No. 29, dated the 30th June 1899. —

Foreign Office to India Office.

17th June 1899.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 7th instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a despatch which His Lordship has received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of Koweit.

In view of what is stated in Sir N. O'Conor's despatch Lord Salisbury has authorised His Excellency in a despatch, of which a copy is also enclosed, to refrain for the present from addressing any warning to the Porte in regard to Koweit, and to instruct Mr. Wratislaw to make a



communication to the Vali of Busra in the sense proposed by His Excellency.

I am to suggest for the consideration of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India that he should arrange for a message to be sent to the Sheikh of Koweit enjoining caution in his actions and language.

I am, &c,

(S) T. H. Sanderson

Sir N. R. O'Conor to the Foreign Office

No. 292.

Constantinople
6th June 1899.

My Lord,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to Your Lordship two documents respecting Koweit which I have received from Mr. Wratislaw Her Majesty's Consul at Busra. The first is the paraphrase of a telegram stating that the new



Vali Hamdi Pasha, spontaneously introduced the subject that the Sultan was much disturbed at reports from various quarters of British designs upon Koweit, and that the Vali is of opinion that H.M. would be willing to discuss the question with a view to a friendly settlement. The second reports that the Sheikh of Koweit has imposed 5% duty on all imports from Turkey, and that upon the Director of the Busra Customs complaining of this proceeding the Governor General Hamdi Pasha begged that the question should not be brought forward at this moment.

I think it may be assumed that it will be obvious to the British Government that the Sheikh of Koweit would not have dared to impose a duty on Turkish products without foreign support



support, and it may be also assumed that the Sheikh has been indiscreet in his language and boastful of British protection, but that it may be doubted whether the Turkish Government will put his words to the test by attempting to punish him.

Were it possible without the negotiations being divulged, we might approach the Sultan with a proposal that he should engage not to cede to any other Powers any of his rights over the coast of the Persian Gulf. There are, however, two objections to this course. I consider secrecy to be well nigh impossible and that it would be difficult to make the engagement applicable to Koweit without implying an official recognition of Turkish sovereignty.

There remains the course of waiting the further developments, while

at



at the same time instructing Mr. Wratislaw to hint to the Governor General, when the occasion offers, that an attack upon Koweit might get him into trouble, and enjoining upon the Sheikh Mubarek, through some private channel, to be more cautious in his action and language. Some warning of this kind seems the more necessary that the protection of British political interests in the Persian Gulf may ultimately involve the protection of the Sheikh of Koweit.

than?

I have, &c,

(Sd) N.R. O'Conor

Mr. Wratislaw to Sir N.R. O'Conor

No. 23.

Busra
3rd May 1899.

Sir,

With reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honour



to report that Sheikh Mubarek of Koweit has recently imposed an import duty of 5% ad valorem on all goods arriving in his country. Hitherto merchandise im:ported into Koweit from Busra or other Turkish ports was exempted from such duty on presentation of a certificate from a Turkish Custom House, but the Sheikh now declines to recognise the certificates and claims duty from all imports whatever be their origin. I learn that the Mudir of the Busra Custom House has complained to the Vali of this proceeding on the part of the Sheikh. Hamdi Pasha in reply begged the Mudir to let the question be for the moment and allow him to get settled in his new post and make himself acquainted with all the cir:cumstances of the case.

I have, &c.,

(Sd) A. C. Wratislaw



Telegram from Mr. Wratislaw.
Dated Busra, June 4th 1899.

The Vali spontaneously introduced the subject of Koweit in the course of a conversation I had with him today. H.E. stated that reports of British designs have much disturbed the Sultan, and that foreign representatives who have views of their own on Koweit are sedulously exciting H. M's suspicions. The Vali is confident that if Your Excellency were to approach the Sultan on the subject personally H.M. would welcome such an opportunity of frankly discussing the matter and arriving at a friendly settlement. He himself is advocating such a settlement in a report which he is about to send in.



Foreign Office to Sir N. R. O'Conor.

No. 144. 17th June 1899.

Sir,

I received and communicated to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India Your Excellency's despatch No. 259 Secret of the 24th ultimo, forwarding a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Busra relative to Koweit, and suggesting that the Turkish Government should be warned, in the event of their taking steps to give active support to the claims of Sheikh Mubarek's nephews, that Her Majesty's Government would have strong objections to a Turkish expedition against Koweit.

I transmit to you a copy of a letter which has been received from the India Office on the subject.

In




In view of what Your Excellency states in your further despatch No 292 of the 6th instant, I authorise you to refrain for the present from addressing any warning to the Porte in regard to Koweit, and to instruct Mr Wratislaw to make a communication to the Vali of Busra in the sense suggested by you, when occasion offers.

I will communicate a copy of your despatch No 292 to the Secretary of State for India, and will suggest that he should arrange for a message to be sent to the Sheikh of Koweit enjoining caution in his action and language.

I am, &c,
(Sd) Salisbury

No.





Confidential

No. 1131- E.A.

F.A. Please peruse & then put in Koweit file. [initials] 2/8

A copy of the foregoing correspondence is forwarded to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Govt of India in the Foreign Department No 1027 E/A (Confidential), dated the 11th July 1899.

By order, etc.,

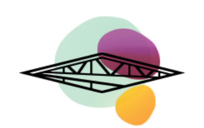
J B Wood

Offg Under Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 1st August 1899

Letter from the Foreign Office to the India Office dated the 17th June 1899, with enclosures. —

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 420 F. D.—21-7-99.—15000.





Confidential.

272
00259

No. 1208 E.A.

A copy of the foregoing print is forwarded confidentially to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, for information, in continuation of the endorsement from the Government of India in the Foreign Department No. 886 E.A., dated the 20th June 1899.

By order, etc.,

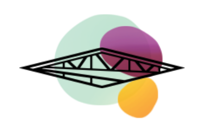
[signature]

Asst. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FOREIGN DEPARTMENT,
SIMLA;
The 11th August 1899.

Asiatic Turkey Confidential Print, Section 2, dated the 1st May 1899.

G. C. Press, Simla.—No. 420 F. D.—21-7-99.—1,000.





273

00260

Received with letter from Secretary, Political and Secret Department, No. 29, dated the 30th June 1899.

Enclosure in Foreign Office covering letter of 20th May 1899.

ASIATIC TURKEY. [May 1.]

CONFIDENTIAL. SECTION 2.

No. 1.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 207. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 27, 1899.*

With reference to my despatch No. 194, Confidential, of the 20th instant, regarding the negotiations proceeding between M. Rechnitzer and the Sublime Porte for the grant of a Concession for a railroad from the Syrian coast to the Persian Gulf, I learn from the Austrian Ambassador that M. Rechnitzer, who appears to be a Concession hunter by profession, has applied to him for official support on the strength of a recommendation from the Austrian Foreign Office, and that His Excellency has offered to give him a letter to the Porte, stating that he is recommended by his Government and is backed by a strong financial Syndicate.

The inclosed Memorandum gives an account of an interview which Mr. Weakley has had with M. Rechnitzer. The Memorandum contains some interesting details of the course of the negotiations during the period when the Concession was sought in Count Kapnist's name. That gentleman has now informed the Porte that he has ceased to have any interest in the scheme, and has declared M. Rechnitzer to be the real applicant for the Concession.

M. Rechnitzer's proposals have been carefully examined at the Ministry of Public Works, where certain modifications were agreed to, and the scheme, as amended, is now under consideration at the Palace. It embraces the construction of a line from Alexandretta to some point not yet determined on the Persian Gulf, passing through Aleppo, Deir, Bagdad, and Basrah, and a branch line from Bagdad to Nedjef Tesherif *viá* Kerbela.

M. Rechnitzer is informed that the Sultan is disposed to grant the desired Concession on condition that the scheme is made to include the construction of a line connecting the new railway with the Anatolian system, running from Koniah to some point between Alexandria and Aleppo, whereby through connection would be established with Constantinople.

I have, &c.,
(Sd.) N. R. O'CONOR.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Memorandum by Mr. Weakley.

(Confidential.)

In continuation of my Memorandum of the 18th instant, I have to report that I have seen M. Rechnitzer, from whom I have obtained the following particulars regarding Count Kapnist's railway scheme.

1



The communication addressed to the Porte by Count Kapnist, intimating his having ceased to have any further interest in the Tripoli-Koweit Railway scheme, and declaring M. Rechnitzer to be the real applicant for the Concession, has now been handed in. The project is now, therefore, in the hands of M. Rechnitzer, who is carrying on the negotiations with the Porte on behalf of the financial Syndicate mentioned in my previous Memorandum on the subject.

M. Rechnitzer explained that the scheme was first brought forward under Count Kapnist's name, with a view to prevent Russian opposition, and with the idea of obtaining powerful influence, both in St. Petersburgh and in Constantinople, for the furtherance of the project.

With this end in view, Count Kapnist had been successful in obtaining the support of Count Mouravieff and M. de Witte, on the condition that a portion of the capital necessary for the construction of the line was to be raised on the Russian market.

The scheme was, however, from the outset very strongly opposed by Prince Oukhtomsky, and M. Tatischeff, Financial Adviser to the Russian Embassy in London, considered that Russian support should only be given to Count Kapnist in the event of the project he was interested in being entirely placed under Russian control. M. Tatischeff was even of the opinion that, under such circumstances, the Russian Government scheme of extending the Central Asia Railway into Afghanistan might be abandoned.

In the course of subsequent negotiations, MM. de Witte and Romanoff stipulated that a small share capital of 10,000,000 fr. should be raised, of which 6,000,000 fr. was to be held in Russia, and that a debenture capital of 250,000,000 fr. should be obtained in England. These conditions could not be accepted by the London Syndicate, as they would place the line entirely under Russian control, and further negotiations being impossible, it was considered undesirable that Count Kapnist should, under the circumstances, continue to take an active part in the matter, and that he should give up his interest for a substantial consideration.

The terms of the draft Convention have been carefully examined at the Ministry of Public Works, and certain modifications have been agreed to.

The head of the line will be at Alexandretta instead of at Tripoli; the line will pass close to Aleppo on to Deir, and, following the right bank of the Euphrates, will reach Bagdad and Basrah, and will finally bring up at a point to be determined upon later on on the Persian Gulf, situated between Fao and Koweit, if not Koweit itself. M. Rechnitzer said there seemed to be some doubt as to the sovereignty of Turkey over Koweit, a doubt which had been expressed by Lord Curzon at an interview which M. Rechnitzer had had with him; it had, in consequence, been considered advisable to leave the terminus of the line on the Persian Gulf undetermined for the present.

The proposal for the construction of a branch line from Bagdad to Hannekin has not been entertained by the Porte, as that line will form part of the Anatolian Railway Company's scheme, which joins Hannekin to Moussoul by way of Kifri. On the other hand, no objection was made to a branch being extended from Bagdad to Nedjef Tesherif *viâ* Kerbela.

M. Rechnitzer has been informed that His Majesty the Sultan is favourably disposed to grant him the Concession he has applied for on condition that his scheme includes the building of 450 kilom. of railway from Koniah *viâ* Adana to join the proposed line from Alexandretta at a point between that port and Aleppo, in order to have a through connection with Constantinople over the Anatolian system, which has Koniah as a terminus.

Osman Bey, Sous-Chef de l'État-Major, has received instructions from the Palace to examine M. Rechnitzer's proposals, and His Excellency Tahsin Bey, First Secretary of the Palace, has been instructed to prepare a special report on the subject for His Majesty the Sultan's perusal.

2



274

The modified project for the Concession of the railway applied for by M. Rechnitzer is now as follows:—

Main Line.—Alexandretta to Aleppo, Deir, Bagdad, Basrah, and a terminus on the Persian Gulf.

Branch.—Bagdad to Nedjef Tesherif *viá* Kerbela.

Proposed Line.—Koniah *viá* Adana on to a point to join the main line between Aleppo and Alexandretta.

Constantinople, April 21, 1899.

8






275
00262

Telegram Fr: Foreign
Simla
To Resident
Bushire

Secretary of State telegraphs
Consul at Bussorah instructed
to communicate directly with you
in addition to his usual report
to Constantinople & Bagdad by
best means at his command
on matters affecting Koweit
& in case any emergency there
requiring immediate action
also to report direct to Govt.
of India. Keep him informed
of your movements

Foreign
2nd August 99.





276





277





278

